FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced that Iranian artillery would again shell Basra starting at 1230 GMT on 8 March in retaliation for an Iraqi missile attack on Masjed Soleyman the previous evening, and for an earlier Iraqi air raid on Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. Iraqi planes also attacked Abadan on 7 March, killing 9 people and wounding 48, according to IRNA. For Iraq's part, a military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio said the Iraqi Air Force dealt "smashing blows" to Iranian military targets, and reported another "successful" air strike against a "large maritime target" near Khark Island. The communique also confirmed that Iran carried out its threat to shell Basra and Mandali on 7 March.

Commenting on the shelling in a speech broadcast by the Voice of the Masses, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said Iraq's response to the Iranian shelling was to initially choose targets in two areas and only strike other areas if the shelling was repeated, because "our aim is not to kill the largest possible number, but to convince the Iranian people that their rulers are wrong." As for Iran's retaliatory capabilities, the Iranian Air Force commander emphasized that his pilots are ready to carry out missions "deep inside Iraqi territory at the earliest time," according to the radio.

Lebanon

An IDF soldier was killed in the exchange of fire between the IDF and the Lebanese Army near Kawthariyat al-Siyad on 7 March, Jerusalem radio announced. The radio also cited Lebanese security reports that two members of the Amal movement were killed and a number of Lebanese soldiers were wounded in the battle. Contradicting Lebanon's account of the incident, the radio accused the Lebanese Army of initiating the clash by opening fire at Israeli forces which were pursuing cars containing "suspicious" persons. Senior IDF sources took a "grave" view of the incident, the radio said, but attributed it to a "local Lebanese initiative."

Meanwhile, UNIFIL sources announced that the army of southern Lebanon (ASL) killed a girl and wounded three women in the southern village of Yatar, according to Jerusalem radio. The ASL denied reports that its men also fired at Irish UNIFIL soldiers, the radio noted. Beirut radio accused the IDF of killing two Lebanese with "indiscriminate" fire during search operations in the village of Al-Qusaybah.

PLO

Agreement With Jordan — Jordanian King Husayn denied that the text of his agreement with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been amended, SPA reported. PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the PLO delegation that recently held talks with Husayn, also indicated that the agreement has not been amended, stating in remarks reported by SPA that it is "too early to speak of amendments" to the agreement. Contacts with the Jordanians are still underway, he noted.

'Arafat Activities, Remarks — Yasir 'Arafat praised French President Francois Mitterrand's position on the Palestinian issue at the end of talks in Tunis with visiting French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas, according to Paris radio. Meanwhile, MENA reported 'Arafat's *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* interview, in which the PLO leader accused Syria of holding secret talks with Israel "under U.S. supervision" and claimed that Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi planned to use two aircraft "to attack my plane in the air."

Abu Nidal — Although AFP cited a JANA report that Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, was among the group of Palestinian leaders received by Al-Qadhdhafi on 6 March, monitored reports by the agency have not been observed to mention his presence at the meeting.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq, in an interview reported by Karachi radio, announced his intention to lift martial law within 2 to 3 months.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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'Arafat Discusses Mubarak Plan, Jordan Accord, Syria
NC071745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, 7 Mar (MENA) — According to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO appreciates Egypt's role, importance, and position. It also appreciates President Husni Mubarak's position, as he is trying to use his ideas to solve the Middle East problem, and to push the Palestinian-Jordanian march several steps forward in the wake of the agreement. He said: Exchanges between ourselves and President Mubarak take place on more than one level.

As for the Palestinians' ideas on solving the problem, 'Arafat said in an interview with *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* that, naturally, the PLO is searching for a just and comprehensive formula that will end Israel's occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem. This should be done through an international conference, attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned with the conflict, including the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. The PLO should participate on an equal footing with the other parties. He added: Basically, we favor a joint Arab delegation.

In the interview, which the magazine will publish tomorrow, Friday, 'Arafat said: The Palestinians' actions stem from their commitment to the PNC resolutions and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. They act on the basis of the Fes summit resolutions, to which the PLO, Jordan, and other Arab countries are bound.

On the varied Palestinian reactions to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, reactions which ranged from support to opposition, Yasir 'Arafat said: Part of the attack on the agreement stems from the nature of the Syrian regime, which opposes any Arab summit and any form of Arab solidarity.

The Syrians were the ones who disrupted the meetings of the 7-member committee, which embodies the dynamism of the Fes plan. They also disrupted the meeting of the Quadripartite Committee, which was formed by the Fes summit. This is the Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian-Egyptian committee. Naturally, this regime opposes any form of Palestinian-Jordanian solidarity. The PLO Executive Committee chairman added: Any opposition from Damascus seeks to disrupt Arab solidarity. It makes no difference if this opposition is disguised as Arab, Syrian, or Palestinian. However, there is another form of opposition that we respect and appreciate. It stems from Palestinian democracy. It is the right of any organization, leader, or fighter to express his opinion on any event. When the majority makes its decision, commitment to it will be complete.

'Arafat referred to Syria's position on the Palestinian issue. He said: There is a U.S.-Syrian agreement that contains two clauses aimed at the PLO and the Palestinian people. The first is a pledge that PLO fighters will not return to southern Lebanon. The second is a guarantee of security for Israel's northern borders from attacks by Palestinian fedayeen.

On the possibility of bypassing the obstacle posed by Resolution 242, which the PLO opposes due to its treatment of Palestinians as refugees, and not as a people with rights, Yasir 'Arafat said: We all go to the United States without preconditions. There is a chance that a new resolution might be issued. 'Arafat asked: Why does the United States want to remove the Palestinian problem from the halls of the United Nations, when this international organization saw a solution for the Korean problem and is solving the Cyprus issue?

'Arafat added: We are calling for a lasting and comprehensive solution. Can any sane person think of a just and comprehensive solution without the two superpowers? It was no coincidence that the Middle East problem was the basic one discussed at the recent meetings in Vienna between Murphy and Polyakov. The two superpowers are discussing the Middle East problem in Vienna at this level. How can Washington ask us to ignore the Soviets' role while it is consulting with Moscow on the same problem? Is this not clearly contradictory?

Yasir 'Arafat noted that coordination continues between the PLO and Jordan. There are committees that will continue discussing the details of the agreement, possible amendments to it, new Palestinian or Jordanian opinions, or new ideas from certain other Arab countries. We welcome any reservations, and are willing to discuss them. He said that all the Arab countries, with the exception of Syria and Libya, are enthusiastic about this agreement to some degree.

Asked if the Arab countries would negotiate on Syria's behalf if it refused to attend the international conference, if it is convened, 'Arafat said: Of course not. However, I will continue inviting Syria to take part. Of course, this depends on whether they are still interested in the Golan. I want to point out here that the Jordanians and Palestinians have differences with Syria on this issue, as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad approved the convening of this conference. The Syrian president ignored the PLO, and this caused the differences between us.

'Arafat was told that Damascus held talks with Washington after it discovered the strong relations between the PLO and the USSR. He said: Actually, the Soviets have begun to realize the strong relations between Syria and the United States. This was clearly evident when U.S. envoy Philip Habib stopped the war only 4 days after it broke out. He added: The United States is now determined not to drop its ally, the ruler of Damascus, from the peace equation. They gave him a free hand in Lebanon, since he implemented Washington's plans there: namely, partition along sectarian lines.

In response to a question on the possibility that a war of assassination might break out between the Syrians and Palestinians, Yasir 'Arafat said: We will not get involved in any new "war of assassins" in the region. These assassins attacked Saladin and managed to wound him once. We are now facing a new group of assassins, who killed Abu al-Yadd in Al-Biqa', Fahd al-Qawasimah in Amman, and the *AL-MUHARRIR* newspaper team in Beirut. As far as I am concerned, they are after me now. They tried in Tripoli. They even tried to assassinate me in Tunis. They have tried to kill me on the ground and in the air.

Yasir 'Arafat added: Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi intended to use two new planes to attack my plane in the air. You

should remember that Al-Qadhdhafi prepared a plane for use in an attack on the PNC meeting in Amman. Al-Qadhdhafi has joined the assassination squad. He stressed that the PLO does not intend to answer these campaigns of liquidation. We leave any reply up to the Syrian people. That applies to the Libyan people as well.

Asked if the battle in the camps of southern Lebanon between the PLO on the one hand, and the Palestinian dissidents and the Syrians on the other has been postponed at Lebanon's request, Yasir 'Arafat replied: In my opinion, Lebanon's decision on this issue was firm. Thus far, it has protected these camps, but Syria's plans have not changed. There are six battalions of special Syrian troops in Al-Mudayrij. They are ready to advance on Beirut and Sidon with all their weapons, artillery, and vehicles for an assault on the camps.

Yasir 'Arafat also commented on the recent Israeli withdrawals in southern Lebanon. I have said before that the Israelis will withdraw to the border strip, but that they will retain a certain amount of land near their observation posts in Al-Baruk and Dayr al-'Asha'ir. They will not leave those two posts until the ongoing secret talks between Israel and the Syrian regime are over.

Asked to comment on the nature of these talks, Yasir 'Arafat said: The negotiations between the two sides are taking place under U.S. supervision. The Soviet Union is well aware of that. He added that these meetings have been held in Washington, Tangiers, Geneva, and in Kenya. The meeting in Kenya took place on a farm owned by a well-known Arab investor. The fact that these talks are continuing is evident in Syria's withdrawal of 12,000 troops from its frontlines after the Israeli withdrawal. It carried out this withdrawal on the pretext that these troops were needed on its borders with Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey. Yasir 'Arafat added that there are a number of issues on the agenda of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. The basic issues concern the sharing of water from Lebanon's Al-Litani, Al-Hasbani, Al-Wazzani, and Al-'Asi Rivers. This is in addition to protecting Israel's borders and preventing the PLO's return to Lebanon.

On the national resistance campaign being waged against Israel's occupation of the south, Yasir 'Arafat noted: Palestinian resistance fighters are participating alongside the Lebanese in opposing the Israeli occupation. He cited the Israeli military spokesman's admission that the Palestinians are playing a leading role in events in the south. 'Arafat corroborated his statement by saying that Palestinian Commander Abu Ghassan was martyred in Tyre, and that Commander 'Abd al-Rahim al-Qabalawi was martyred in 'Ayn (al-Salu). He noted that the Lebanese national resistance forces issued a statement mourning Abu Ghassan.

Touching on the Iraq-Iran war, Yasir 'Arafat declared: There are some surprises in store now that Iraq has settled the military situation. He pointed to the Iranians' first mention of a schism within their command. He added that Iranian commanders have turned over some points of their plan to the Iraqis. Undoubtedly, this is extremely important.

Asked whether Syria can serve as a mediator to end the war, 'Arafat said: President al-Asad will not mediate to end the war. Everyone knows that the Syrian president is fanning the flames of war, particularly through the information which he from time to time supplies to Iran, and also through the cooperation between Tehran and Damascus.

On the Saudi king's message to the Palestinian command at the end of his recent visit to Washington, Yasir 'Arafat said: A special envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told us that there has been a noticeable improvement in the U.S. position. Washington has begun to acknowledge the positive elements of the initiative agreed upon by the Arabs in Fes.

To a question on why the French president did not receive him in Paris, Yasir 'Arafat replied: You should ask French President Mitterrand. It is unfortunate that the French president has laid down an insurmountable barrier [saqfan la umkin tajawizahuh] in Palestinian-French relations.

Yasir 'Arafat described Palestinian-Algerian relations as strong and excellent. He noted that certain Arab parties have made a number of attempts to disrupt these relations, but that they were frustrated by Algeria's firm position. Algerian President Bendjedid has fixed opinions on this, and also on his mediation within the Palestinian sphere and between the Palestinians and Syrians.

'Arafat Meets With France's Dumas in Tunis

Meeting Held 7 Mar

LD071148 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] It has happened: Mr Roland Dumas, our minister of external relations, met Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in the PLO villa near Tunis just before 1100. The Palestinian delegation comprised, notably — apart from Yasir 'Arafat — Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, and Ibrahim al-Sus, PLO representative in Paris. Having said that, so far nothing is known about the contents of these talks.

Details of Meeting

LD071339 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Roland Dumas, the minister of external relations, is in Tunis for the day. Naturally, he is going to meet the main Tunisian leaders but relations between France and Tunisia are very good, there are hardly any problems, and in the end people are mainly interested in his talks with Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO chief. The two men met this morning at the headquarters of the Palestinian organization, a villa near Tunis. Alain Menargues, you are on the line with us. Can you tell us, as far as you know, what Roland Dumas and Yasir 'Arafat talked about?

[Menargues] For almost an hour and a quarter they spoke mainly, of course, of the PLO's position in the efforts toward peace,

negotiations, and President Mubarak's initiatives. They discussed the question of Lebanon and southern Lebanon, and also of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement that was signed on 11 February and the evolution that this agreement has subsequently undergone.

[Announcer] Does it still remain to be known what Roland Dumas was able to propose as far as a possible French initiative in this field is concerned?

[Menargues] I think that on this point things are very clear. When he arrived Roland Dumas stated to Yasir 'Arafat: I attach a great deal of importance to this conversation; I very much want to know and hear what you think about certain problems: I am here to listen to you. During this hour and a quarter of talks it was mainly Yasir 'Arafat who spoke, while Roland Dumas was very attentive. Roland Dumas is due to meet Egyptian President Mubarak in Paris tomorrow. The latter is stopping off in Paris en route for Washington to present his plan for relaunching negotiations with Israel. I think that for the French minister of external relations, it was important to know the PLO's exact position on this point.

'Arafat Thanks Mitterrand

LD071448 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has insisted on paying tribute to the strong and dynamic position of President Mitterrand on the Palestinian problem. He did this at the end of the talks lasting more than an hour which he held in Tunis this morning with Mr Roland Dumas, our minister of external relations. The PLO chief indicated to journalists that he has charged Mr Dumas with handing Francois Mitterrand a personal verbal message expressing his thanks. Having said that, Yasir 'Arafat expects France to have a dynamic attitude because of its position in Europe and the Middle East and its friendship with the two great powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Of course Yasir 'Arafat was asked if he envisaged a meeting with President Mitterrand. The PLO chief replied, smiling: That depends on the French head of state and his timetable.

PLO's 'Abbas Returns From Meeting in Amman

Brings Husayn Message to 'Arafat

GF071700 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, received a message from King Husayn on the latest developments in the Arab region. WAFA reported that King Husayn's message was conveyed to Brother Abu 'Ammar by Brothers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], members of the Fatah Central Committee, who returned to Tunis from Amman yesterday.

Comments on Amman Talks

LD071439 Riyadh SPA in English 1247 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, March 7 (KUNA) — King Husayn of Jordan denied that the text of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement had been amended, whereas a leading Palestinian official affirmed that Palestinian-Jordanian talks on the issue are still underway, it was reported Thursday.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas said last night that contacts between Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships on the agreement are still on and the official stand of both sides will be decided later.

'Abbas, who is also a Fatah Central Committee member, was a member of the Palestinian delegation that went to Amman last week for talks with Husayn on some clarification of certain items of the agreement. 'Abbas' statement, however, is regarded as a correction to earlier statement of the PLO spokesman Ahmed 'Abd al-Rahman in which he said that Jordan has agreed to two important changes of wording in the agreement.

Meanwhile, Husayn told reporters following his meeting Wednesday in the Egyptian city of Al-Ghardaqah with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that the case in point was clarification of certain provisions but no changes to the essence of the February 11 agreement occurred.

Says Contacts Continuing

LD071406 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1150 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 6 Mar (SPA) — Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee has stated that it is too early to speak of amendments to the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. In a statement today in Tunisia he said that the delegation that returned from Amman is still debating the results he reached with Jordanian officials in the latest round of talks with Palestinian leaders. He went on to add that contacts with the Jordanian leadership are still continuing.

Palestinian Leaders Assail 'Arafat-Husayn Accord

PFLP's Abu 'Ali

PM071327 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 16 Feb 85 p 3

[Interview with Mustafa Abu 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the PFLP, by 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Salam in Damascus — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What are the prospects of the Palestinian national struggle? Is there a plan or program by your organization to salvage the PLO and put it on the right path of both military and political struggle, particularly after the recent agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat?

Answer: There is no doubt that the Palestinian revolution and the PLO are facing acute difficulties due to two reasons:

The first reason is the fact that the revolution is one of the targets of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plan, because destroying it and getting it out of the way is one of the principal and urgent tasks of that alliance.

The second reason is the instrinsic dangers present within the PLO in the deviationist rightist course and its destructive policy, which is causing the greatest harm to the Palestinian national program. This crisis is worsened and exacerbated by the nature of the leadership controlling the PLO. The daily actions of this leadership reflect its impotence and inability to continue struggling to accomplish the program, and its policies even constitute a retraction from this program.

Therefore, we in the PFLP stress our continuation of the struggle by expressing our adherence to the program and the national charter. We do this primarily through effective action inside Palestine and in collaboration with the Lebanese nationalist forces in the fight against the Zionist enemy. On the other hand we put forward proposals to salvage the PLO and deal with its affairs. These proposals are put to all the Palestinian nationalist forces, organizations, and personalities, and they call for the following:

The first proposal is to take immediate and effective action to topple the deviationist leaders and policies.

The second is to enable the PLO to resume its nationalist role by defending its charter and program and the PNC resolutions at its various sessions up to the 16th session. This means rejecting the political and organizational decisions of the illegitimate and divisive Amman session.

The third is to confront the Jordanian regime's policy and its agreement with the Amman postings which aim at undermining the integrity of the PLO's representation of our Palestinian people and eventually destroying the Palestinian national cause; this is particularly true since the agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat was in response to King Husayn's plan of surrender (land in return for peace and Resolution 242), which is bound to lead to the dissipation of our people's struggle and the destruction of its identity and even national cause.

The fourth is to organize the militant elements by organizing and defining the methods of joint struggle action between Syria, with its vital and leading role, the Lebanese nationalist forces, and the Palestinian revolutionary factions in order to continue the pursuit of the Zionist enemy on Lebanese territory and enhance the role of these elements in the armed struggle.

The fifth proposal is joint action for reviving and reactivating the means of Arab confrontation by reviving the Steadfastness Front or any other mass activities in order to eliminate deviation and its dangers, which are harming all the Arab forces of liberation and progress.

The question now is: What are these means?

In our view and in the light of the recent 'Arafat-Husayn agreement, the organizations and forces should form a coalition front and a national action leadership that would take away legitimacy from 'Arafat and from all those who agree with him or support his policies. Such a front would be the voice of the PLO, and of its national program.

For our part, as we are endeavoring to take immediate action by calling for a coalition front. We call on our allies to be aware of the real dangers resulting from 'Arafat's surrender and deviationist policy and the need to support the forces opposed to his policies. While we are working for this noble objective of eliminating deviationism and its symbols and of enabling the PLO to resume its national role, we will continue to work for national struggle in all forms against the Zionist enemy and the reactionary plans.

Question: Briefly, how do you appraise the Arab situation and the extent of the impact of the capitulationist plans and 'Arafat's joining the Husayn-Mubarak axis on it? How far has the Syrian stand helped in strengthening the cohesiveness of the forces opposed to the capitulationist actions and plans?

Answer: Despite the intensity of the imperialist onslaught and the prominent role Arab reaction is playing in establishing the new axis, we can see the bright side of the Arab liberation movement. The most illustrious examples in this regard are the successive victories achieved by the Lebanese nationalist masses, the heroic actions of the national resistance front, and the emergence of the Egyptian masses' role in confronting Camp David. This was displayed in both the uprising in Kafr al-Dawwar and the resistance to the international fair book in which Israel, Sudan, Oman, and representatives of the Palestinian right took part. We can also see the Sudanese people's rise against Numayri's failed regime and the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territories.

Regarding the extent of the effect of the Syrian role, in our view it is great, critical, and of extreme importance. This makes the responsibility of Syria, the party, the people, and the state even greater in assuming a vanguard role in confrontation and in adopting a firm stand against the Arab reactionary axis.

On the official level we call for the revival of the Steadfastness Front as one of the means of political confrontation to counter the activities of Arab reaction. We believe that political conditions call for overcoming secondary disputes in order to face the major tasks. Syria and President al-Asad, who enjoys respect and political status, can take the initiative and play an effective and fruitful role in this regard.

DFLP's Hawatimah

GF070800 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Feb 85 P 16

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has described the Husayn-'Arafat agreement as being "the exact and full U.S. solution proposed for the Palestinian question and the Middle East crisis."

In a telephone conversation in Damascus, Hawatimah told *AL-WATAN* that the agreement that was concluded last Monday represents a complete aberration from the PLO program and a

violation of the PNC resolutions, particularly the resolutions of the 16th session, the Aden-Algiers agreement, and the resolutions of the Rabat and Fes conferences. Hawatimah said that the PLO had previously rejected such an agreement produced by the 'Arafat-Husayn talks in April 1983. At that time, 'Arafat would have signed what he did sign on 11 February 1985 if it were not for the joint national action of the Fatah Central Committee, the leadership of the Democratic Front, and a number of national personalities who were able to tear this agreement and foil it. This is what took place during the well publicized meetings in Kuwait.

Hawatimah went on: Now, the April 1983 agreement is raising its wicked head once again. It has become obvious that foiling this agreement is a national and patriotic necessity because neither 'Arafat nor the Executive Committee has the right to surpass the PNC resolutions. He said that this National Council, with all its powers, is the sole legitimate institution that can issue a resolution contradicting the PLO program, the PNC resolutions, and the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences.

He added: Therefore, we call upon all brothers who are concerned about national unity in the Fatah Central Committee to renounce this agreement just as they did in April 1983. At the same time, we call for convening a PNC with all its forces in order to stress thwarting this agreement and reconsolidating the PLO program, the program of returning and establishing the independent state, the integral and independent representation of our people by the PLO, and rejecting all forms of commissioning, deputization, or participation in representing these people. He also said: The 'Arafat-Husayn agreement will be foiled by the masses of our people inside occupied Palestine and throughout the world, and by the entire national forces in the ranks of these people just as the 'Arafat-Husayn plan was foiled in April 1983.

Nayif Hawatimah disclosed to *AL-WATAN* that the organization of the Democratic Alliance is now meeting to discuss these developments. He said that from the first moment the Democratic Front called for rejection of this agreement and "we expressed our insistance on the necessity of foiling it. We called for the greatest possible gathering of all the revolution forces, the national personalities, and all the popular Palestinian organizations in order to work and coordinate until this agreement is foiled because its defeat has become a fundamental condition for regaining Palestinian national unity.

In his exclusive statement to *AL-WATAN*, Hawatimah pointed out that the agreement represents a complete violation of what the Fatah Central Committee told the Democratic Front and a number of the national Palestinian forces, as well as Algiers, Aden, the Soviet Union, and a number of socialist countries. They informed all these forces that they rejected King Husayn's proposals and that they adhere to the PLO program and to the PNC resolutions. Thus, whatever might be said by 'Arafat in this context is considered to be an exposed form of misinformation and lying.

Commenting on Faruq Qaddumi's statements which were interpreted by some circles as being opposed to the agreement, Hawatimah told *AL-WATAN*: It seems that these interpretations are correct because Fatah's Central Committee was surprised by the Husayn-'Arafat agreement. The day before yesterday, Tuesday, Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] contacted Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh to affirm that the Husayn-'Arafat agreement was a surprise to him and to a great many members of the Fatah Central Committee; this is because the Central Committee had sent another plan, stressing a number of fixed principles that conform with the PLO program, the PNC resolutions, the resolutions of the Arab summits, and the resolutions of the Rabat and Fes summits. They were surprised by the agreement concluded by 'Arafat, which is an aberration from what the Fatah Central Committee had itself submitted. They were surprised to know that 'Arafat had accepted the principle of land for peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242, and were surprised by a thousand solutions, as Abu al-Lutf put it, to convert the question of the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people into an internal problem between the Palestinians and the Jordanians. This is exactly what U.S. imperialism wants and this is what U.S. President Reagan has recently asked from King Fahd. They were surprised to know that this agreement destroys the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state, and the right of the PLO to have an independent representation in any international conference on the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question.

Hawatimah told *AL-WATAN* that the existing row even inside the Fatah Central Committee indicates that 'Arafat has even gone back on what he agreed with the Central Committee regarding an agreement that represents only 'Arafat's opinion.

About his recent talks in Algiers, Hawatimah said: An extensive round of talks was held with Algerian President Bendjedid and with the leaders of the party, especially Mohamed Cherif Messaadia. He added: During our talks with the leaders of the party and state, and particularly with President Bendjedid, they affirmed Algeria's firm stand in support of the PLO program, our people's right to return and to have self-determination, the independent state, and in support of the independent representation of our people by the PLO. Algeria's stand against any attempts to encroach on this independent representation was affirmed.

Hawatimah stressed that it is important for the Fatah Central Committee to declare unequivocally and through a definite decision the rejection of the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement. This agreement represents a violation of all the fundamentals of national Palestinian unity and constitutes an about-face by 'Arafat on the reactionary American-Arab solution which is based on commissioning Jordan in accordance with Resolution 242 under the banner of exchanging land for peace; it is also based on converting the entire problem from one of the national rights of a people in their land where they are to build an independent state, and from the problem of a national liberation movement by them into one of borders between the enemy's state and Jordan whereby rights are liquidated and the land and people are again divided as happened in 1948.

Hawatimah described Washington's welcome for the agreement as being rather natural because what been leaked about the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement and what we know of it so far indicates that it is the defeatist U.S.-Arab reactionary solution. It is

based on commissioning Jordan to represent the Palestinian people at the negotiating table and in direct bilateral bargaining within the context of Camp David and in accordance with the Jordanian proposals; these proposals happen to be the other face of Reagan's plan.

PFLP-GC Aide Hails USSR View of Jordan-PLO Accord

PM071518 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 Mar 85 p 3

[Interview with Talal Naji, PFLP-GC assistant secretary general, by Usamah Da'bul in Moscow — date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: What are your impressions of the Soviet attitude to what is currently taking place in the Palestinian arena, particularly in light of your current visit to Moscow?

Answer: In the view and in the belief of every member of our Palestinian people the Soviet Union is a superpower that strongly defends our national rights to return, self-determination, national sovereignty, and to establish an independent state.

We are absolutely confident that the Soviet Union adopts a firm and principled stand in defending the persecuted people's struggle. It is the stubborn enemy of world imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism and its plans that are hostile to the Arabs.

We need no further proof of the fact that the Soviet Union will continue its support for our people's struggle for the achievement of their national objectives. We are aware that rightist Palestinian figures are trying to distort the Soviet stand through the procedurals of relations with the Soviet Union [as published], but we are quite certain that these attempts will not succeed. Our people know very well that the Soviet Union stands on their side and that of the progressive forces that are resisting deviation and confronting the U.S. policy of liquidating the Palestinian problem.

The Soviet Union has clearly expressed this firm stand and we highly appreciate the Soviet Union's boycott of the Amman divisive council. We also highly appreciate the Soviet leaders' statements prior to holding this council, particularly when Foreign Minister Comrade Gromyko warned the rightist Palestinian leadership against weakening its stand on the Reagan plan. He said: The Reagan plan is even worse than Camp David and the PLO must adopt a clear and firm stand on this plan and other U.S. plans.

He also said that the basis for the revolution's triumph lies in the unity of its factions and in strengthening ties with its natural ally.

We also will not forget what Comrade Gaydar Aliyev said when he visited Damascus about a year ago: that the Soviet Union strongly supports our Palestinian people's struggle and works for the unity of the PLO on a national progressive basis hostile to imperialism and Zionism.

I have read here in Moscow the text of the official comment disseminated by TASS and published in *PRAVDA* on the 'Arafat-Husayn accord. By all our recognized standards I consider this comment to be a clear reference to the Soviet Union's denunciation of this agreement. I am confident that the Soviet Union will never allow the U.S. plot in the Middle East to succeed. Just as it stood firmly on the side of Syria, the Lebanese nationalists, and the Palestinians until the 17 May agreement was annulled, it will stand firmly and strongly on the side of Syria, the Palestinian nationalists, and the Jordanians in order to prevent the implementation of the new chapter of the Camp David conspiracy which is now being hatched in Amman with the aim of liquidating our Palestinian people's rights.

PLO Radio Describes Attack on Zionist Vehicle

JN071726 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] In accordance with the revolution command's directives and decision to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of conflict, a Palestinian military spokesman said that a group of our revolutionaries set off a remote-controlled explosive charge yesterday under a Zionist military vehicle near a Zionist settlement, south of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. The vehicle was destroyed and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded. The enemy radio admitted the operation but claimed that the explosion merely caused extensive damage to the vehicle and no casualities.

Observers in Tel Aviv said that this is the first time that remote-controlled explosive charges have been used in attacks in the occupied West Bank. They noted that in previous attacks only hand grenades, incendiary bombs, or mines were used. They said that the use of this more sophisticated method of attack will increase the anxiety of Israeli officials.

PLO Radio on Attacks Against Zionists in Lebanon

JN071817 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces are intensifying their operations against the men and vehicles of the Zionist invasion forces and their agents in occupied southern Lebanon, inflicting further losses in life and equipment. The joint forces heroes launched a machinegun and rocket attack yesterday against a Zionist base and position near the Dayr Qanun, al-Nahr-Burj, Rahhal-Al-'Abbasiyah triangle. A number of Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded during the attack.

The joint forces also attacked a Zionist position near Al-Qasimiyah bridge on the Al-Qasimiyah-Al-Burghuliyah road yesterday. The Zionist position was destroyed and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded in the machinegun and rocket attack. The joint forces also set off high-explosive, remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military patrol yesterday near Sharbihah in occupied southern Lebanon. A military half-track was destroyed, another was damaged, and all of their occupants were either killed or wounded in the explosion. Using machineguns and rockets, the joint forces attacked a military patrol belonging to the so-called army of southern Lebanon militias near 'Arabdah in Jazzin. One agent jeep was destroyed, another damaged, and all of their occupants either killed or wounded.

The joint forces also attacked a military position belonging to the agent militias in Kafr (Khalub) west of Jazzin. A number of agent elements were either killed ro wounded. Using machineguns and rockets, the joint forces heroes attacked a Zionist military patrol on the 'Anabtah-Al-Rihani road the day before yesterday. One Zionist military vehicle was destroyed and all of its occupants were either killed or wounded.

The joint forces also attacked a Zionist military position east of Tyre. The Zionist position was destroyed and all of the Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operations but, as usual, did not mention his losses. He said that his forces immediately carried out extensive search campaigns and arrested a large number of citizens on the pretext of collaborating with the heroes of the joint forces, who withdrew safely to base.

Steadfastness Front To Hold Summit Conference

GF070830 Doha QNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Aden, 7 Mar (QNA) — PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has announced that the leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states have agreed to hold a summit conference. The practical steps and necessary measures for convening the summit will be initiated. This came in a statement Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made upon his return to Aden last night after the conclusion of tour of Ethiopia, Libya, Algeria, Syria, and the YAR. During the tour he held talks aimed at exchanging views on the recent developments in the region especially with regard to the Palestinian question. Aden radio quoted the PDRY chairman as saying that during the tour it was agreed to unite the efforts of all the Arab national forces "in order to annul the Amman agreement between Jordan and the PLO."

BAHRAIN

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives 7 Mar

GF072000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, 7 Mar (WAKH) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Manama today from Aden on a 1-day visit to the state of Bahrain. This falls within the framework of his tour of a number of the region's countries. During the visit the Jordanian foreign minister will convey a message from King Husayn of Jordan to the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Upon his arrival, the Jordanian foreign minister was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah.

GULF MIRROR Interviews Prime Minister on Gulf Issues

GF071040 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 7 Mar 85 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah by *GULF MIRROR* editor Philip Moore in Manama 6 March]

[Text] Peace, stability, progress and prosperity formed the keynote to a blueprint for Bahrain's future as envisioned by HE the Prime Minister, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

In a broad and frank interview yesterday the ongoing Iran-Iraq conflict figured high on the agenda.

Virtually as the premier spoke, word was reaching Bahrain of more fierce shelling as tensions, even by the usual standards of the Gulf war's brinkmanship, appeared to further heighten. "This war is not serving anybody's purpose," said the prime minister. "It's costing lives on both sides and causing a lot of worry for everybody, especially the Gulf countries."

The prime minister lamented that Iran had not followed the GCC lead in settling the differences with its neighbor at the peacetable. "The GCC countries have been trying to find a solution and to persuade the Iranians in particular to accept a ceasefire and sit at the negotiating table with the Iraqis. The Iraqis have mentioned this many times, that they are willing to sit and negotiate with the Iranians, but unfortunately the Iranians did not take this initiative from the Iraqis."

Asked if Bahrain might be an appropriate venue for peace talks, the prime minister said: "We would welcome any peace initiative." But he added that the Bahrain Government would want to know that "the path had been smoothed" and that a positive outcome of such talks, if held on the island, was likely.

Positive steps towards the future generally figured prominently in the prime minister's view to developments that will shape Bahrain and the Gulf. He did not rule out that Bahrain might one day return to democracy. In 1975 Bahrain disbanded its National Assembly. But Kuwait has again held general elections and it appears that one day Bahrain could go to the polls. Shaykh Khalifah said: "Voting is not a new thing for Bahrain. We have gone through it and we can go through it again. "We always feel that the timing for such things is important. We wish Kuwait all the success and if the Kuwaiti example is a successful one that will be a great help for all of us down in the Gulf here."

However, he said that Bahrain was not taking a lead from Kuwait on the matter of elections. "We are not taking a lead from anyone — that's one of the mistakes people make in many things in that they take a lead, or take an example. In this respect, Bahrain has a history behind it — the people of Bahrain have a history of carrying their responsibility, which we are very proud of. We feel it's a matter of organising and this is part of the organisation which in the long run we feel will be for the good of the country and the people."

The prime minister did not say whether women would vote with the island's menfolk if elections came to fruition but he did say: "Our women in the Gulf — just like any other woman anywhere else in the world and the women of Bahrain in particular — have a good standard of knowledge. If given the chance to participate in any organisation I think they have always fulfilled the responsibility. The woman has certain advantages and disadvantages which are always considered in any legislation anywhere else in the world. The women of the Gulf, and in particular Bahrain, have gone quite a long way in carrying responsibility."You see it in many establishments here, government and non government."

Turning to the Bahrain-Saudi causeway, the prime minister said it would be of great use to Bahrain — politically and economically. "It all depends on both sides, how we can use this link. We are not the first country in the world to have a link with its neighbors. There are countries before us, there are countries even in the Gulf which have links, land links, between them. We have to develop this important tool in our hand for the use of our two countries and our two peoples." He said, however, that despite speculation, there were no current talks regarding a causeway link with Qatar.

Bahrain's emergence as an offshore banking centre has been successfully moulded in line with the country's move away from dependence on oil. Now there are 77 OBUs [offshore banking units] with assets totalling about $63 billion. But in monetary circles it is well accepted for Bahrain to really develop into a financial centre like Hong Kong or New York, it needs that so far elusive stock exchange. The prime minister says: "We have almost finished the studies for a stock exchange here in Bahrain. We think it would be of great use for the banking facilities in Bahrain. I can't tell exactly the time but we are working on that to make it as soon as possible."

PDRY

Chairman Ends Regional Tour, Returns to Aden

GF071622 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme

People's Council Presidium, and the party and government delegation accompanying him, returned to Aden from Sanaa after a visit to Ethiopia, Syria, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Algeria, and the northern part of the homeland.

During his visit he held talks with the leaders of these countries, exchanging views on issues in the Arab region in light of the new development in the Palestinian arena and the suitable steps for confronting the aggressive activities of the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary circles against our people.

Upon his arrival at the airport he was received by Brother Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Brother Haydr Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister; brother members of the Political Bureau and YSP Central Committee; ministers; and a number of officials.

Upon his arrival at Aden airport, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a statement to the press accompanying him. He announced that his visits to Syria, Libya, and Algeria were not only for discussing issues pertaining to the relations between the PDRY and these countries, but for discussing a number of important strategic issues. He said that he called for a summit conference of the countries of the front. He said: There was a unanimous response from leaders of these countries. The necessary preparations will be taken later.

Brother secretary general described his tour to the confrontation and steadfastness countries as very successful. Answering a question on how the steadfastness front will eliminate the dangers of capitulation, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that an agreement was reached on uniting the efforts of all the progressive and national Arab powers to cancel the Amman agreement which aims at undermining the national rights of the Palestinian people and their representation by the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

The agreement also undermines the Palestinian people's rights for the return, self-determination, and establishment of their own state. It also splits the Palestinian ranks and goes along with the gist of the Camp David accords and capitulatory projects. He added that confrontation with capitulation according to the Camp David accords is the main condition for the unity of the active Arab stand in confronting the imperialist and Zionist plots, which cannot be achieved through the so-called Amman agreement, or by amending it.

Answering a question on the results of his visit to Ethiopia on the first leg of his tour during the last week of February, and his talks with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad described his visit to Ethiopia as very successful.

He also described the relations which bind our country with Ethiopia as ideal and strategic. He said that PDRY-Ethiopian relations not only serve the struggle and goals of the two revolutions and the two peoples, but they also serve the goals of the Arab and African national liberation powers and the security and peace issues in the region.

Jordanian Minister Visits; 'Arafat Accord Explained

GF071950 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Brigadier General Staff 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, today received Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, who conveyed a verbal message from the Jordanian monarch King Husayn to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the General People's Congress and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. The message pertains to the 11 February agreement signed in Amman between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, to amendments and to the current Arab situations.

The audience was attended by Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign minister, and Zuhayr Sakkijha, the Jordanian nonresident ambassador.

It is worth noting that our country has denounced this agreement. The majority of the factions of the Palestinian revolution and the powers of the Arab liberation movement did so since this agreement is designed to forfeit the national rights of the Palestinian people and to forfeit the Palestinian people's sole representation by the PLO in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people.

This agreement also harms the rights of the Palestinian people to return home, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state. Moreover, this triggers the disintegration of the Palestinian people and weakens the prestige of the PLO within the ranks of the Arab and international liberation movements. For this reason our country believes that confronting this novel problem — which the Amman agreement made take root in the national Palestinian ranks — cannot be solved by amending the agreement but by abrogating it as a whole.

The Jordanian foreign minister arrived and departed Aden today. He was received and seen off by Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah.

Prime Minister Meets With PRC Minister

GF071638 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Haydr Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, received in his office this morning Comrade Li Ximing, minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting, they reviewed international developments and bilateral relations and the means to promote them. Brother al-'Attas has lauded the PRC Government's support and aid to our country in various fields.

For his part, the PRC minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection extended his personal congratulations to Brother Haydr al-'Attas on the occasion of his election as prime minister. He also conveyed to him the congratulations of the premier of the PRC State Council. He expressed satisfaction regarding his visit to the PDRY. He

admired the gains and revolutionary achievements in our country.

The meeting was attended by Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of installations; and 'Abdallah Ghanim, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Foreign Minister Departs for PRC 7 March

GF071342 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] In response to an invitation from the PRC foreign minister, a delegation led by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, today left Aden for Beijing on an official visit to the PRC.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali said that this visit comes within the framework of the friendly relations which link our country and the PRC. He said the visit will consolidate the friendly relations between our countries and for discussing the development of bilateral cooperation relations in the economic and trade fields and for exchanging views on the international situation.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Ali As'ad Muthana, member of the YSP Central Committee, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and director brother secretary general's office; Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign minister; and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

PDRY-Portuguese CP Talks End; Protocol Signed

GF071825 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The official and party talks concluded today between the PDRY-YSP side, led by Brother Abu Bakr Bhadib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and the delegation of the Portuguese Communist Party led by Comrade (Osto Diobaso), member of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Central Committee. During the meeting, the importance was affirmed of strengthening the struggling relations between the friendly parties for serving the joint goals which the two parties are struggling for, and the importance of the unity of the Arab national liberation movement for confronting the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary projects aimed at subjugating the Arab region within its expansionist aims and suppressing the struggle of the Arab nation. Also, affirmed was the importance of the unity of the factions of the international revolution movement and consolidation of their struggle on the basis and principles of scientific socialism and proletariat internationalism.

At the conclusion of their talks, a protocol was signed on party cooperation between the two friendly parties for 1985-1986. The protocol included cooperation in many fields. The protocol was signed on the Yemeni side by Brother Abu Bakr Bhadib and on the Portuguese side by Comrade (Osto Diobaso). The signing ceremony was attended by Brother 'Ali Isma'il Sayf, deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and from the Portuguese side by Comrade (Romani Rodriguez), candidate member of the Central Committee.

Lebanese Communist Party Official Arrives 6 Mar

GF071830 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Nadim 'Abd al-Samad, member of the Political Bureau of the Lebanese Communist Party, arrived in Aden yesterday. During his visit, Brother Nadim 'Abd al-Samad will hold talks with the political leadership in our country on the latest development in the Lebanese arena and in the region in general. He was received at the airport by Brother 'Ali As'ad Muthana, member of the YSP Central Committee, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and director of brother secretary general's office.

DFLP's Hawatimah Departs Aden After Visit

GF071401 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], left Aden this morning after a visit to our country which lasted several days. In a statement to ANA, Brother Hawatimah explained that his visit came in response to an invitation from the YSP Central Committee within the framework of consultations and organized coordination between the DFLP and the YSP. He said that he conducted a number of talks, especially with brother secretary general on the situation in the Palestinian and Arab arena, foremost of which is the recent Amman agreement which represents the other face of the Reagan plan aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue. He was seen off by Brother 'Abd al-Hamid Sa'id, member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

YAR

President Receives Jordanian Foreign Minister

GF071337 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Sanaa, 7 Mar (WAKH) — YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received a message from King Husayn of Jordan on bilateral relations and explaining the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. The message was conveyed by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri during an audience with the YAR president today. The Jordanian foreign minister arrived in Sanaa earlier today on a brief visit to the YAR.

Concludes Visit

GF071815 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Tahir al-Masri, the Jordanian foreign minister, left Sanaa today following a brief visit to the YAR, during which he delivered a message from King Husayn of Jordan to Brother

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

He was seen off by Muhammad al-Junayd, minister of development and head of the central planning organ; Zuhayr al-Sikkaha, the Jordanian ambassador in Sanaa; and a representative from the president's protocol office.

Prime Minister Receives EEC Delegation
GF071404 Doha QNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Sanaa, 7 Mar (QNA) — 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers in the YAR, met here today with the EEC delegation visiting Sanaa. During the meeting, they reviewed YAR-EEC relations in light of the cooperation treaty between the two sides signed in 1984, in addition to the aid which EEC countries give to the YAR in the development and economic fields.

Mubarak Receives Message From Numayri on Mideast

NC071255 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has sent a message to President Husni Mubarak in reply to a message he received from President Mubarak last week regarding current developments in the Middle East. Mubarak's message was conveyed to President Numayri by the Egyptian ambassador to Sudan.

FRG Minister Comments on Talks With Abu Ghazalah

NC071300 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) — FRG Defense Minister Dr Manfred Woerner expressed full satisfaction with the results of his talks today with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production.

The German defense minister told MENA that the talks held at the Defense Ministry were important and useful. He said that he will discuss the results of his talks with officials in Cairo during a news conference that he will hold on Sunday [10 march].

DPA Report on Mubarak Talks

LD071527 Hamburg DPA in German 0830 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (DPA) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Federal Defense Minister Manfred Woerner for a talk on Thursday morning in Cairo. The talk was attended by Egyptian Defense minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah. Woerner's talks in Cairo center on the discussion of possibilities for improving military cooperation between the two states. Woerner arrived in Cairo Wednesday evening for a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Although the Egyptians show great interest in armaments from the Federal Republic, it is not expected that concrete agreements will be reached on cooperation in the defense sphere. There has not so far been any cooperation in defense policy between the Federal Republic and Egypt.

Abu Ghazalah Briefs Mubarak on Trip to U.S.

NC071449 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, this morning.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said he briefed President Mubarak on the results of his recent visit to Washington and on his talks with senior U.S. officials. In a statement after his meeting with FRG Defense Minister Dr Manfred Woerner, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah described his trip to the United States as successful, and reported his discovery that the United States understands Egypt's position completely. He added that the results of his talks will be evident after President Mubarak visits Washington and holds in-depth, extensive discussions with U.S. Administration officials.

As for the subjects of his talks with the Americans, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: We discussed our current military program. We also reviewed U.S. military aid to Egypt for the coming year, the military equipment we will receive, and the chances for further development in this field.

Mubarak Leaves Cairo for Paris, U.S., UK 8 March

NC080636 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Paris this morning at the start of a tour which will take him to France, the United States, and Britain.

President Mubarak was seen off by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali; Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, People's Assembly speaker; Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Consultative Council speaker; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education.

Major General Hasan Abu Basha, minister of local government; Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of tourism; Ahmad Rushdi, interior minister; and Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo, were present at the president's departure. The British ambassador, the French charge d'affaires, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo were also in attendance.

'Abd al-Majid Briefs Palestinians on Situation

NC071537 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met today with PNC Member Sa'id Kamal and Zuhdi al-Qudrah, head of the PLO's office in Cairo. The meeting was also attended by Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Palestine Department.

Sa'id Kamal told our correspondent that his meeting was part of the intensive communication between Egypt and the PLO. He said that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid reviewed Egypt's efforts to achieve a just and lasting Middle East peace on the basis of a fair solution to the Palestinian question in accordance with President Husni Mubarak's ideas.

Sa'id Kamal added that yesterday's statements by President Mubarak and King Husayn reflected their commitment to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the later clarifications to it. Their remarks also confirmed the PLO's right to choose its representatives to the upcoming negotiations.

Sa'id Kamal said he made an urgent telephone call to Yasir 'Arafat, and briefed him on Egypt's ideas for stimulating efforts toward peace.

Commentary on Mubarak, King Husayn Talks
NC071412 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "The Egyptian-Jordanian Summit Meeting in Al-Ghurdaqah"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's talks in Al-Ghurdaqah yesterday with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan dealt with some of the most important topics concerning current efforts to solve the Palestinian problems. As is known, Egypt has held very extensive contacts and consultations at the international level since the announcement of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. In addition to the visits to Cairo by many presidents and foreign ministers, Egypt has exploited diplomatic channels in a way that enables us to say that these interchanges have been made with all the countries that are directly or indirectly concerned with the Middle East problem. The recent Egyptian-Israeli exchanges are also important in clarifying the situation and in appraising possible developments in the near future. On the other hand, King Husayn has held extensive exchanges at the Arab level.

The importance of the Egyptian-Jordanian summit talks in Al-Ghurdaqah stems from the above mentioned points. Undoubtedly, when President Mubarak begins his visit and talks in the United States next week, he will present the situation objectively for discussion with U.S. officials. It is needless for us to say that President Mubarak's talks in the United States willbe of special importance at this stage in the efforts to solve the problem in the region. As is known, President Mubarak is exerting huge efforts to begin a U.S.-Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. The United States has thus far not defined its position on President Mubarak's proposals, but current developments now require a definition of positions. As we know, politics are not merely a matter of black or white because political positions are multifaceted and subject to every eventuality.

In light of this known fact, no one can wait for miracles. The position of the Jewish lobby in the United States should be at the forefront when factors are taken into consideration. This point needs some clarification. A known fact is that the position of the Jewish lobby and the pro-Israeli pressure groups are closely linked with Israel's position. The position of the Peres government — if we ignore the hardline positions of some people inside this government — is rather positive. There are two basic points that can define both the Israeli and the U.S. positions. The first of these points is the position of Israel and the United States toward the PLO, or, more definitely, their positions toward the Palestinians' representatives in any future talks on the issue. This is not the most important of the two points because the point concerning the application of international law in the region is more important. The essence of this point is for Israel to agree to withdraw to the pre-5 June 1967 borders.

The road is still long and the situation is very complicated, but things have, in fact, started to move and we only have to wait for what developments will bring forth.

President Receives Delegates to Baghdad Seminar

Speaks on Iran Conflict

JN071947 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to women delegates participating in Baghdad seminar of world women; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] Whenever an Islamic conference was held, it called on the Iranian rulers to end the war. Whenever a nonaligned conference was held, it called on Iran to stop the war. Whenever a UN Security Council session was held, it called on Iran — that is, the Iranian regime — to stop the war. Iraq responds, but the Iranian regime does not. Their slogan is to occupy Iraq and establish a regime similar to theirs.

Let us put aside the Iraqis' feelings because they are known, but we believe that the Iranians do not agree with that slogan. [applause] The Iranian people do not agree to the establishment of a regime in Iraq similar to the one in Iran. We say that the Iranian people do not agree because we do not think they agree to see backwardness [words indistinct] hundreds of years.

Regimes that have progressive views and rational behavior and that interact with human factors and concepts are better for the Iranian people than another backward regime on their borders. That is, of course, impossible. It was a big delusion in the Iranian rulers' minds. Now they themselves have discovered that they were wrong, but they have become involved with such slogans that it became difficult to revoke them. They are not brave or enlightened, nor do they believe in the people. Therefore, they cannot say they were wrong and that this is right and that is wrong. Courage does not lie only in carrying the rifle. Carrying the rifle is considered courageous from the human viewpoint when the carrier is defending his rights and expressing a human aspect of life. The courage of leaders lies in their brave decisions that are based on awareness and enlightenment — decisions whose responsibility they shoulder when they deem that as necessary and important.

Now they are shelling Basra. Before that they shelled [word indistinct]. Naturally, we are capable of replying to their shelling. They and the whole world know that when we reply we do so with an ability greater than theirs, if we view ability according to technical considerations. What pains us is to open a battle with the aim of shelling towns and secure people. The victims will be both Iraqis and Iranians. We know quite well that at least the majority of the Iranains do not believe in the course chosen by the Iranian rulers — a course in which they implicated their people. We made several attempts and warnings, but in vain. They insisted on the shelling. Therefore, we announced that we can attack targets in 30 Iranian towns at one time. However, we told the General Command to choose targets in only two areas and to strike at other areas if the shelling is repeated because our aim is not to kill the largest possible number, but to convince the Iranian people that their rulers are wrong and that the right path for their life is peace and peaceful coexistence with Iraq and and the region's states.

Speaks on Women's Rights

JN071652 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Report on speech by President Saddam Husayn to women delegates participating in Baghdad seminar of world women — date not given]

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has said: From the beginning we have not based our calculations on material factors despite their importance in war circumstances. Ordinary, intellectual, and humanitarian calculations have been the decisive factor in our confidence that the ill winds coming from Iran through those representing them in power will only reap disappointment.

Addressing women's delegations participating in the Baghdad seminar of world women, the president added that anyone who does not believe in the freedom of people cannot give freedom to women, and whoever does not believe in the cause of mankind in general cannot understand women, their rights, and their duties. Accordingly, he said, the one who struggles in defense of women and their rights, duties, and entity is not the Iraqi woman in Iraq, but man in the forefront. The president added: Our party linked the emancipation of society and that of women a long time ago. It neither separated the two nor confined the task of emancipating women to women, but considered it a national, humanitarian, revolutionary, and pan-Arab task of the Iraqis and the nation.

Reportage on Military Conflict With Iran

Communique No 1,763

JN071739 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,763 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 7 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue their heroic defense of Iraq's soil, the people's accomplishments, and the citizens' safety and security. The following are our units' activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In reply to the crime the regime of charlatans in Iran has committed against the valiant city of Basra, in implementation of our warnings, and with the help of God, a strike was delivered against selected targets in the city of Dezful and artillery strikes were delivered against the city of Abadan. This confirms to the Iranian rulers that any attack on purely residential areas will not pass without crushing deterrance and severe punishment.

2. With the aim of destroying the aggressor Iranian regime's remaining military potential, our Air Force planes dealt smashing blows to the enemy's military installations, positions, troop concentrations, and equipment centers. During their 257 lightning raids, the valiant sky hawks inflicted very heavy losses on enemy personnel, military installations, and equipment. The sky hawks returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

3. In implemmentation of the siege imposed on Khark Island, the valiant sky hawks launched a successful raid against a large maritime target near Khark Island, hitting it accurately and effectively at 1630 today. They returned with their aircraft safely and triumphantly, praise be God.

4. According to precise planning and perfect implementation, our capable artillery units pounded the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the central sector of the operational theater, destroying seven infantry positions and two vehicles whose occupants were killed, and inflicting other losses in men and equipment.

5. Our forward units used all types of weapons to pound the enemy concentrations, positions, and weapon emplacements in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting losses in personnel and weapons and destroying one 120mm mortar and one infantry position.

6. Our forward units in the Maysan sector opened violent, concentrated artillery and mortar fire on the enemy's engineering efforts, observation posts, vehicles, and troop concentrations destroying four vehicles that were seen on fire and two observation posts, obstructing the enemy's engineering activity, starting fires that continued for a long time in other enemy positions, and burning one observation post. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our units pounded an enemy concentration, inflicting losses in personnel. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

7. Today the criminal enemy shelled the city of Basra, Mandali, and the village of Tawilah in Halabjah District with heavy artillery. We emphasize that the Iraqi Armed Forces will continue to reply fiercely to the Iranian regime's barbarism until this regime abandons its misdeeds and crimes submissively.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 March 1985

Iran Shells Mandali

JN080641 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA) — It was mentioned here today that Iranian artillery shelled the Iraqi border city of Mandali for 4 and 1/2 hours yesterday afternoon. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that the Iranian shelling demolished several houses, set fire to several orchards, and killed several citizens including one woman, an old man, and two children. An *AL-JUMHURIYAH* correspondent cited Mandali citizens as saying that the Iranian shelling reflects the Iranian regime's impotence and its failure to confront the Iraqi Armed Forces in the battlefield.

Iran Shells Basra

JN081018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1013 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Basra, 8 Mar (INA) — The INA correspondent in Basra reports that Iranian artillery shelled Basra for 8 hours yesterday afternoon. He added that the shelling continued until 2200 and that some shells fell near the city hospital. He said that no shelling of Basra was reported this morning. An Iraqi military spokesman has warned Iran that Iraq will respond fiercely to any Iranian shelling of Iraqi cities.

Shelling of Basra Resumed

JN081518 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Basra, 8 Mar (INA) — The city of Basra was subjected to violent, intermittent Iranian artillery shelling this afternoon. An INA correspondent in Basra said the shelling is continuing sporadically and added that Iran resumed its shelling of the city at 1340 today. The correspondent indicated that the shelling caused losses in lives, demolished several houses, and damaged several civilian cars. This is the third Iranian shelling of Basra in the last 48 hours.

Somali Minister of State, Delegation Visit Baghdad

Meet With Ramadan

JN061551 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Muhammad Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation currently visiting Iraq. They reviewed bilateral relations and ways of expanding them.

Deliver Message to President

JN071043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received a written message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre today. The message was delivered to RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim when he received Muhammad Ali Hamud, the Somali president's envoy and Somali minister of state for foreign affairs here today. The message deals with bilateral relations and Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

Depart Baghdad

JN071432 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA) — Mohamed Ali Hamed, Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn and Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, left Baghdad today following a 2-day visit to Iraq. During the visit the Somali envoy delivered a written message from President Mohamed Siad Barre to President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and both Arab and world issues of common interes.

Industry Minister Confers With FRG Official

JN061153 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA) — Industry and Minerals Minister Subhi Yasin met with FRG Economics Deputy Minister Lorenz Schomerus here today. The two sides discussed bilateral relations in the industrial and technical fields and the ways to promote them in the interest of the two friendly countries' peoples. The German official arrived here earlier today.

Initial Talks With USSR on Direct Air Link Begin
JN071447 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT AL-SHA'B* has learned that initial talks are being held between Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, and the Soviet aviation authority with the aim of opening a direct air link between Amman and Moscow.

A Jordanian delegation will visit Moscow to finalize talks on opening this link between the two countries.

Somali Minister of State Brings Message for Husayn
JN071849 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Mohamed Ali Hamed, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Amman this afternoon. In a statement to the PETRA correspondent, the guest minister said he is carrying a message to His Majesty King Husayn from His Excellency Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on Arab relations in general and bilateral relations in particular as well as on recent developments in the Arab arena.

On his country's stand toward the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the Somali minister said his country supports everything that brings Arab viewpoints closer to achieving a solution to the Palestine cause.

The guest minister was received at the airport by the Foreign Ministry secretary general and the chief protocol at the ministry.

Commentary Views UN Refugee Agency Funding Cut
JN041259 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 85 p 4

[By Fakhri Qa'war]

[Text] UNRWA, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees was set up following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War in order to offer aid and find work for the Palestinian refugees. The United Nations General Assembly, which establish the agency said that UNRWA will continue to function until a durable and just settlement has been found for the Palestinian refugees' problem. Accordingly, UNRWA embarked upon its operations and started offering its relief services — health, education and food — to refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and in the occupied territories, and was also able to find work to as many of the refugees as possible.

In the past few years, however, UNRWA, began a process of reducing its services, specially food rations, followed by health and medical care. As a result, a very limited number of refugees now receive UNRWA rations. These form only 10 percent of the total number of refugees now living in the Arab countries and under Israeli rule. UNRWA's health services and hospitalisation were completely terminated in Jordan some four years ago.

What UNRWA continues to offer at present is very limited indeed, its services being confined to education. The agency is in fact going ahead with plans to reduce educational services to a bare minimum. There will come a day when UNRWA will shift this burden to the Jordanian Government and shirk its responsibility towards the refugees, in violation of the U.N. General Assembly resolution. One visit to an UNRWA school in Jordan is enough to make one realise this fact. At least 50 students are cramped into a small classroom at present, whereas the number was far less only two years ago. This policy is bound to adversely affect the quality of education given to the students, and will eventually lead to the dismissal of teachers. It is thus clear that UNRWA is not only planning to reduce educational services to the refugees but also to cut the number of jobs it has been giving to displaced Palestinians, also in violation of the U.N. General Assembly resolution.

Most recently, UNRWA announced that it was terminating the jobs of 39 of its employees in Vienna and Amman. We have reason to believe that the agency is planning to carry out similar measures soon to lay off a long list of teachers, principals of school and some supervisors. In addition, UNRWA is planning to close down teachers' training schools in its field of operations.

The agency is taking all these measures under the pretext of having a deficit in this year's budget. Though informed sources within UNRWA deny that the present deficit warrants such drastic measures, they say that in 1981 the deficit was $80 million while it has dropped to $68 million towards the end of 1984. They wonder how UNRWA was able to survive in 1981 without any substantial reduction in expenses and without the cancellation of posts. They also wonder why UNRWA's Commissioner-General embarked on making cuts in jobs and expenses before appealing to donor countries for more aid.

It has been the practice of governments, major institutions and organisations to seek solutions to problems which they confront now and then, rather than reduce the services to the public. A deficit in UNRWA's budget this year should not warrant a shirking of responsibility and commitment towards the Palestine refugees, but it requires added efforts on the part of UNRWA's officals to find new sources to finance operations. UNRWA is not doing enough to raise funds required for its services and it seems that it will sooner or later shift the burden on Arab countries hosting the refugees, particularly Jordan which hosts the largest number of them.

Jordan has the largest number of UNRWA schools which give education to quite a large number of refugee children, but also offer jobs to nearly 6500 teachers who support some 10,000 dependents. Should Jordan be faced with the task of shouldering education in addition to medical services, the country will inevitably be facing social problems that will affect the whole country.

AL-DUSTUR Views King Husayn, Mubarak Talks
JN071342 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "The U.S. Intentions Are on the Touchstone"]

[Text] At the press conference held by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak following their talks in Al-Ghurdaqah yesterday, His Majesty stressed three major issues that constitute the essence of the Jordanian stand

and the starting point of Jordan's current political moves within the framework of activating efforts to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The first issue is that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement that was signed in Amman on 11 February is the last serious opportunity to achieve peace in the region. This is especially true since this historical agreement, which has enjoyed the blessing of the Palestinian people and the support of the Arabs and many world countries, has clearly defined the practical starting points and the basic principles to inspire the achievement of a just political settlement of the region's crisis.

The second issue is that the next step must come from the United States, which has never stopped announcing its desire to participate in the Middle East peace process; this peace has now become the aspired objective of all Arabs, particularly the Jordanians and Palestinians who, through their joint agreement, have taken a basic step along this path which is fraught with various difficulties.

The third issue is his majesty's reaffirmation that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and that it must be represented in any negotiations pertaining to the Middle East crisis. This stems from a basic and invariable fact, namely that the Palestinians are the owners of the land and the cause, and no one can replace them in defining the options that are connected to their future.

Therefore, the Al-Ghurdaqah meeting, which came on the eve of President Mubarak's visit to Washington, and the emphasis put on the major issues constituting a mutual basis for the stands of the two fraternal countries have placed all matters in their natural perspective and put the ball into the U.S. court. The United States will shoulder a great and historic responsibility if it hesitates again to take this opportunity which may not occur again in the foreseeable future.

Undoubtedly, the declared U.S. intentions are now facing a genuine test after the owners of the cause have made the first and historic step in this regard and have placed President Reagan's administration face to face with a practical choice between continuing the policy of hesitation, ambiguity, and indecision, and adopting historic stands that would bring peace opportunities closer and allow peace to proceed on its thorny and long path.

Ihdin Radio Reports on U.S. Envoy's Evacuation

NC081128 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] In a dispatch from New York, REUTER reports that U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew has been evacuated from Lebanon after receiving threats in Beirut. REUTER adds that other U.S. Embassy officials have also been evacuated.

U.S. Envoy Meets Officials

NC081329 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] For the second time in 24 hours, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew has met with Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk [Foreign Ministry secretary general] and Ambassador Khalil Makkawi. They discussed the Lebanese complaint against Israel at the UN Security Council.

Saudis Reportedly Refuse To Receive Al-Jumayyil

NC072039 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of the Mountain, Saudi authorities have refused to receive President of the Republic Amin al-Jumayyil. This is due to his current position on events in Lebanon.

Our information confirms that the regime sent Simon Qassis to Saudi Arabia in search of financial assistance and political support. However, the Saudi authorities refused his requests, and demanded that solutions be reached before any aid was provided.

We note that most of the Gulf states have refused to grant any aid in line with the Saudi position.

Nabih Birri Denies Plan for Sectarian State

GF071925 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 7 Mar 85 pp 1, 20

["Exclusive report" from Beirut]

[Excerpt] Lawyer Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and leader of the Amal organization, made a warm call to the Arab nation to act and support the south. In statement to *AL-KHALIJ*, Birri said: "We are Arab, we are now alone at the confrontation line, and we are waging our battle in defence of all Arabs, their dignity, and their right to life and freedom." Birri strongly denied that Amal is planning to establish a sectarian state. He said that sometimes they accused us of being communists, Shi'ite terrorists, or Muslim extremists. He said: "We are not so, we are simply Arabs who feel their dignity, and defend their land and the honor of their holy places. We are Lebanese nationalists who fight the occupation of our land."

Amal Statement Calls for Support for Resistance

NC061705 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Mar 85

[NNA correspondent's dispatch from Al-Biqa' — recorded]

[Excerpts] To mark the savage crime committed by Israel's invading forces 3 days ago in the southern town of Ma'rakah, an incident which left Brothers Muhammad Sa'd, Khalil Jardi, and others dead, the Amal movement's leaders in Al-Biqa' held a news conference at their main headquarters in Ba'labakk this morning. Brother Mahmud Abu Hamdahn, a member of the movement's Political Bureau and its political officer in Al-Biqa', as well as other members of the Al-Biqa' leadership, attended the session.

Al-Hajj 'Ali Sulayman read a press statement. He began by saluting the martyrs of Ma'rakah and those of the Lebanese national resistance forces. He also greeted, and expressed his esteem and veneration for the nation's leader, the great Imam Khomeyni. He also greeted another leader, Imam Musa al-Sadr. Al-Hajj 'Ali Sulayman then called on those present to follow the road of Imam al-Sadr, emphasizing this statement by the imam: The seeds of heroism are sown when the people of the south take up arms and kill the enemy. Be fedayeen when you meet the Israeli enemy; use your nails and your weapons, however modest. Weapons training is also a duty, like learning prayers.

The statement emphasized these points:

1. Support for the national resistance through the adoption of clear and honest positions accompanied by action.

2. Full implementation of the government's policy statement.

3. Transformation of Lebanon into a fitting homeland for all its sons and communities, who should enjoy equal rights and responsibilities.

4. Condemnation and denunciation of the Arab silence over Israel's criminal actions in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. This is so because the Arabs alone will pay the blood tax, as their regimes are competing with one another to fall into the laps of the United States and Israel.

5. Placing emphasis on the decisive unity among fighting Lebanon, Islamic and revolutionary Iran, Al-Asad's Syria, which provides support, Algeria, which serves the same role, and those Arabs who reject surrender.

6. Amal's expression of regret at the role played by the United Nations, which calls for man's freedom but fails to act accordingly.

7. The unconditional withdrawal of Israel's aggressive forces from all of Lebanon.

8. Denunciation of the war of starvation being waged against the deprived and the needy.

Reportage on Actions, Reactions in South

Israelis Arrest, Release Correspondents

NC071334 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] In the persisting efforts to silence the voice of the press, which conveys the enemy's barbarism, the enemy arrested television correspondent 'Abd al-Hadi Khalil, *AL-SAFIR* correspondent Jihad Saqlawi, and other journalists.

However, this morning the enemy released *AL-HAWADITH* correspondent Sharbil Zughayb and photographer Ahmad As'ad. The enemy arrested them at the Tayr Dibbah roadblock yesterday morning as they were going to Ma'rakah. The enemy took them to the intelligence center in Tyre, interrogated them, and seized their press cards and film.

Clash With UN Troops

NC071610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] In a call to the Voice of Lebanon, UNIFIL's official spokesman said the Israelis lifted their siege of Al-Hallusiyah after demolishing four homes and arresting eight people. The Israelis interrogated 90 residents of Tayr Falsayh. There was fighting in Yatar between the Israeli Army and local forces on one side, and the area's Irish contingent on the other. There was an exchange of gunfire which left one woman dead and three others wounded.

Lahd Forces Evacuate Posts

NC071903 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] According to our latest reports from the south, units belonging to the agent Lahd entered ('Ayn Buswar) at 1630 today. They arrested Al-Hajj Muhammad 'Abdallah Jizzin, stole his car, and took him to an unknown destination. These forces fired on the town earlier, and shot at his home as a means of intimidation. Some units belonging to the agent Lahd withdrew from their post in Casino Fawwar Jba', near the Jba'-Jazzin-('Ayn Buswar) triangle. Reports from Tyre indicate that the enemy forces have almost finished dismantling their center near the Tyre barracks. The occupation forces have begun dismantling one of their major centers in Jiwar al-Nakhl, north of Tyre. According to reports from the south, militiamen loyal to the agent Lahd have evacuated Jba' and retreated to Jarju'.

Israeli Al-Rashidiyah Post Attacked

NC072002 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] At 1740 today, resistance fighters used rockets to attack a post manned by members of the occupation forces south of Al-Rashidiyah. Fire was seen rising from the post. Some of the enemy's support units rushed to the scene and began searching the area. Fighting broke out between this force and members of the resistance. Two enemy vehicles were destroyed, and their occupants were either killed or wounded during the 20-minute skirmish.

Israeli 'Agent' Killed in Yatar

NC072030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] A car carrying five of the Israeli enemy's agents, including 'Ali Khalil Humayyid from Bayt Lif and Ahmad Shibli Salih from 'Ayta al-Sha'b, entered Yatar this morning. They were intercepted by the town's residents. The agents then shot Anfaq Kurani in the town square, killing her instantly. Her father brought out his hunting rifle, and fired on the agents, killing one of them. The town's residents set the car on fire. The enemy forces intervened, and took the dead man to a hospital in occupied territory. Fighting broke out, pitting residents against the Israeli enemy and his agents.

Israelis Raid Al-Qusaybah

NC072051 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The occupation forces raided Al-Qusaybah this morning. They searched homes and scattered their contents. They blew up the home of Amal official Al-Hajj As'ad Mansur and that of his brother, Muhammad. They also destroyed the home of 'Afif Qasim Sulayman, who has been held by the occupation forces for some time. They brought Sulayman to the village, and ordered him to blow up his own home.

The occupation forces deployed on the hills around the village fired randomly, and prevented anyone from entering or leaving. Their indiscriminate fire killed Najib Muhammad Mahdi and Mahmud 'Abd Wahbi. 'Abbas Haydar was wounded, and was taken into custody by the occupation forces. The village is still surrounded.

Army Positions in Sodeco, Mountain Area Attacked

NC071507 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Army positions in the Primo area have been coming under rocket and machinegun fire for some time now. The area is tense, and it is difficult to pass through the Sodeco crossing point.

I have just been told that the Lycee and the International Club are coming under RPG-7 fire from positions in Ra's an-Nab'.

The Army's positions in the mountains, particularly in Suq al-Gharb, are being shelled from areas held by Junblatt's gunmen in 'Aytat.

Khaddam Receives Finnish Military Delegation
JN071231 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received General (Perti Foknin), head of the division of the forces supervising peace and international affairs at the Finnish Defense Ministry, at 1000 today. The meeting was attended by the Finnish ambassador in Damascus and the accompanying delegation. The talks revolved around the current situation in the region.

AL-BA'TH Interviews Egyptian CP Official
PM071027 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 1 Mar 85 p 8

[Interview with Egyptian Communist Party Political Bureau member Michel Kamil by 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kafri in Damascus — date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-BA'TH: How do you assess the meetings and discussions you have had at party and official levels in Syria and what new scope have they opened?

Kamil: We of course make a point of coming to Damascus regularly to meet with our comrades in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party leadership and with the various Arab patriotic forces which regard Damascus as the luminous center of Arab revolutionary thought.

Our visit to Damascus is a working visit reflecting joint struggle. It is a familiarization visit to get acquainted with the views and struggle plans of all the Arab revolutionary forces gathered in Damascus, the main Arab struggle base. Our meetings naturally focused on the serious developments in the Arab world, especially the Husayn-'Arafat agreement which is the most serious threat to the region since the signing of the Camp David agreements. Our discussions also covered means of confronting and foiling this plot, which has serious implications. Naturally, we also discussed the need for opening new channels with all the Egyptian opposition forces regardless of the shaky attitude and unclear vision of some of them.

We believe that coordination between us at this level in our two countries and throughout the Arab homeland is in the interest of our common cause. We found all the forces we met here — forces representing the various trends in the Arab world — to be deeply conscious of the need for such coordination and for cementing their alliance to bolster their steadfastness and resistance and even going onto the offensive against the capitulationist designs and plots.

AL-BA'TH: Let us discuss the Egyptian scene. Recent events and developments confirm that Mubarak's line is in no way different from Al-Sadat's line.

Kamil: The truth about current Egyptian developments is that all the illusions about Mubarak's regime being different from Al-Sadat's and the dreams which some had about Mubarak and the presidency and their ability to change Al-Sadat's course have now evaporated. Nobody entertains them anymore. The Egyptian regime itself, because of its crisis and the weakness of certain opposition factions, no longer bothers to conceal its real policy. It now openly reflects the interests which it serves, namely the U.S. interests. Evidence of that has recently been abundant. As the date of Mubarak's visit to Washington — the aim of which is to beg for more U.S. aid — draws nearer, the regime is noticeably revealing all its cards related to the Palestinian question. Mubarak is frankly urging adoption of the Reagan plan. He is also playing the role of godfather in formulating and promoting the Husayn-'Arafat plan authorizing Jordan to conclude a deal as a second link to Camp David.

Mubarak praises Shim'on Peres and confirms the lie that Israel wants to withdraw from Lebanon and that there are no problems in this connection except that, in Mubarak's opinion, Syria is causing trouble. On the question of normalization, Egypt's relations with Israel are being rapidly enhanced. The most evident signs of this are Israel's attendance at the book fair and the exchange of visits between Egyptian and Israeli officials. The latest was the Israeli energy minister's visit to Cairo with the aim of meeting with his Egyptian counterpart and with Mubarak himself to conclude new deals under which Israel would buy Egyptian oil at reduced prices. Then there are the negotiations over Tabah and the concessions made by the Egyptian regime in this connection.

All these are examples of the retractions exposing the false claims that Mubarak was drawing away from Camp David or that he was giving up his special relations with the United States and Israel.

AL-BA'TH: How do you view the recent awakening in Egypt reflected in the labor demonstrations in Kafr al-Dawwar and the student demonstrations crowned with the burning of the Israeli flag at the Cairo book fair?

Kamil: There can be no doubt that our people are aware of the true character of the Mubarak regime and its links. The people are suffering because of them and are resisting them with increasing vigor. That explains the recent popular upsurge in the national and student movements which is in fact spreading to all sections of the population. There is the labor movement and the continual strikes by the working class, which reached their peak in the Kafr al-Dawwar flareup. Not a day passes without a sit-in or a strike in several plants in various industrial sectors. These popular moves are of course motivated by economic factors and are a result of the deteriorating standard of living for which the regime is held responsible.

AL-BA'TH: What can you tell us about the Egyptian national opposition, how do you explain the cooperation of some of its leaders with the Mubarak regime, and what is the attitude of the opposition forces toward the Egyptian toiling masses, who reject the regime and normalization with the Zionist enemy?

Kamil: What is happening in Egypt is part of and cannot be separated from what is happening in the Arab world. The Arab homeland is at present witnessing a process of identification which usually happens within the middle-of-the-road forces and not the forces which have already and categorically defined their position. These forces represent middle class bourgeois interests

and at present constitute a broad sector in Egypt and the Arab world. After Al-Sadat's assassination the ruling clique had to resort temporarily to political maneuvers, demagoguery, and minor reforms not touching the essence. The aim was to ease the flaming popular revolution and give the regime a safety valve to protect it against collapse. The regime's maneuvering policy succeeded in containing some sectors of the public and official opposition. In fact, a part of the regime's crisis was transferred to the parties because of their shaky attitudes. The result was conflict within these parties and isolation of their leaders from their partisan and popular bases. That weakened these forces and forced them to be part of a vicious circle of concessions. It paralyzed them to a large extent and forced them to accept many of the regime's guidelines and slogans.

Despite all that, we are confident that these parties and forces, on the basis of their national identity and consciousness, are capable of overcoming their crisis and regaining their active national role and effectiveness against hostile designs.

AL-BA'TH: What about the Egyptian leftist and Marxist forces? Are they about to take any unification moves as a first step toward unifying all sectors of the Egyptian national movement?

Kamil: Steps have actually been taken toward unification of the Egyptian Marxist forces inside Egypt through meetings, consultations, and ideological dialogue. The views are clearly close, and the differences of the past have diminished. This closeness has manifested itself in the practical steps taken toward joint action, which was particularly demonstrated during the recent parliamentary election campaign during which a joint program was drawn up. That program was distinctly different from the programs of the other national parties. There is room for optimism about unification of these forces.

AL-BA'TH: What is the aim of the Egyptian regime's recent repressive police campaigns and what is the truth regarding the Egyptian media's claims about the detained groups?

Kamil: The regime has recently launched several repressive police campaigns accompanied by a concerted media campaign using the same despicable methods with fabricated allegations against independent patriotic elements. The indictments stress the element of violence and formation of armed assassination squads, using the same imperialist propaganda claims about international terrorism.

AL-BA'TH: How do you assess the heroism of the Lebanese national resistance against the Zionist enemy and how are its victories affecting the Egyptian man in the street and the Arab revolutionary forces as a whole?

Kamil: What happens in the Arab world negatively or positively affects the Egyptian people and their general dynamism. At one stage the Palestinian revolution was the model and prominent alternative to the general Arab situation and the dynamo which charged national consciousness and revolution. After the Palestinian revolution's crisis, the valiant Lebanese resistance came to restore the sound revolutionary course.

The Lebanese example is now regarded in Egypt as the alternative and the hope of the Egyptian people. We hope that it will be followed and emulated throughout the Arab world as the only means of liberating the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH: Let us turn to the central issue, which is the Palestinian question, and let us particularly turn our attention to the Amman secessionist council [the PNC] and the recent Husayn-'Arafat agreement and its effects on the Arab struggle in general and the struggle of the Egyptian national movement in particular.

Kamil: Since the PNC'S 16th session in Algiers the raising of one particular issue has been a source of concern for the fate and direction of the leadership. The Palestinian right began talking about "reinstating the Egyptian regime and returning it to the Arab fold." A dangerous formula was put forward saying the further the regime draws away from Camp David the closer we get to it. The claim was made that there were new signs of change in the policy of the Egyptian regime. We knew that that call was prompted by "a desire and inclination to back away from and abandon" the PLO'S resolutions, documents, and commitments. That is why we opposed that call. Unfortunately, most of the Egyptian opposition representatives who attended the [PNC] session supported 'Arafat and the Palestinian right.

The recent serious steps taken by 'Arafat and Husayn place new and urgent duties on our shoulders. The first such duty is to foil the agreement and abort the plot being implemented by Washington through the Arab reactionary regimes. There can be no doubt that the Arab nationalist forces, which have recently made great achievements, particularly the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, the withdrawal of the Marines and NATO forces, and the forcible withdrawal of the Israeli forces, are capable of foiling this agreement and paving the way for a sound revolutionary line, which is the only way of frustrating imperialist designs and achieving national objectives.

IDF Operations in South Lebanon Detailed

Fight With Lebanese Army

TA071127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] This morning there were exchanges of fire between IDF and Lebanese Army soldiers near the village of Kawthariyat al-Siyad, located northwest of Al-Nabatiyah. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that an IDF patrol spotted a number of suspicious people traveling in Lebanese cars in the IDF-controlled area this morning. The patrol pursued, and the suspects escaped in their cars to the village of Kawthariyat al-Siyad. At the same time, Lebanese Army soldiers opened fire at our forces and the IDF returned fire. IDF tanks took part in the battle.

Senior military sources told our correspondent that the IDF takes a grave view of this incident, but is at the moment attributing it to a local Lebanese initiative. Our correspondent reports that the senior IDF officers are now making an effort, in coordination with the Lebanese Army, to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Earlier, the Lebanese Army spokesman had announced that the IDF soldiers shelled the entrances to Kawthariyat al-Siyad and the fire was guided from helicopters. The spokesman denied that the IDF soldiers tried to advance toward the village and were repelled.

Security sources in Sidon reported that two members of the Shi'ite Amal organization were killed in the battle and a number of Lebanese Army soldiers wounded. According to the sources, the battle, in which tanks of both sides participated, lasted 3 hours. The area is quiet at the moment.

IDF Soldier Killed

TA071614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpt] An IDF soldier was killed this morning during exchanges of fire with Lebanese Army soldiers northwest of the village of Al-Duwayr in southern Lebanon. The soldier's family has been informed.

Villages Searched; ASL Attacked

TA071239 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] UNIFIL soldiers have reported that IDF troops are continuing to conduct searches and arrest suspects in the Shi'ite villages of Hallusiyah and (Sursiyah) in southern Lebanon. They reported that IDF soldiers demolished a house in Hallusiyah.

In the Shi'ite village of Yatar, a girl was killed and three women seriously wounded from shots fired by soldiers of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL], a UNIFIL spokesman has stated. According to reports by UN soldiers, a group of women blocked the path of an ASL patrol at the entrance to the village. The soldiers fired over the women's heads, but fire was then opened at the ASL soldiers from an ambush. The four women were hit in the exchange of fire. According to UN officers, ASL soldiers also fired at Irish UN soldiers who tried to evacuate the wounded women. After the ASL soldiers left the village, the residents set fire to three vehicles that the soldiers left behind.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht says that an ASL force was attacked in Yatar yesterday and one of the soldiers was seriously wounded.

ASL Denies Accusations

TA071641 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The army of southern Lebanon has issued its own version of the incident in the Shi'ite village of Yatar; according to this local residents standing near the roadblock at the entrance to the village opened fire on a routine ASL patrol last night. The patrol returned the fire, and an ASL soldier and a woman from the village were injured in the exchange. The soldiers retreated, and later the villagers set three cars left behind on fire.

Senior ASL officers have also denied that the patrol opened fire at Irish UNIFIL soldiers in the village. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has also learned that an explosion occurred early this morning in a house in Yatar in which a mother and her daughter were injured. The inhabitants of the house were apparently preparing an explosive charge. Earlier, the UNIFIL spokesman reported that a girl had been killed and three women had been seriously wounded in the village from shots fired by ASL soldiers.

Moda'i Says No U.S. Emergency Aid Promised Yet

TA071802 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who is visiting Washington, said that he does not, for the moment, have a U.S. promise of an emergency grant. In a talk with our correspondent Razi Barqay a few hours before his meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz, Moda'i said that nevertheless he does not regard the visit as unnecessary because this has been an opportunity to explain to the Americans what Israel has done to heal the economy. Moda'i said he would like the U.S. Administration, at the end of his visit, to make a specific announcement of agreement to help Israel in case of need. This evening Moda'i will also initial the agreement for the establishment of a free trade zone. The Americans are refusing to permit correspondents to cover the event and are doing everything they can to downplay it.

'Sources' Say Talks With Jordan Remain 'Open'

TA071206 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 85 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Ronald Reagan intends to first invite King Husayn and later Shim'on Peres to Washington. *HADA*

SHOT has learned that the U.S. President has decided to promote the Middle East peace initiative and to hold meetings with the area's leaders in the coming weeks.

During these meetings, the U.S. President will try to examine the possibility of convening a peace conference, along the lines of Camp David, under his chairmanship in the summer. High-level political sources in Jerusalem think that Reagan wants to copy the achievement of U.S. President Jimmy Carter at the Camp David conference.

High-level sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that the door to negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation remains open, following yesterday's meeting between Mubarak and Husayn in Al-Ghurdaqah, on the Red Sea. Jerusalem expects to receive full details of the meeting from the Egyptian president. It is possible that President Mubarak will send a special envoy to Prime Minister Peres to deliver a full report on his meeting with Husayn. The prime minister reiterated yesterday that Israel is prepared to demonstrate extreme open-mindedness in the political process. However, its condition has been and continues to be: no to the PLO and yes to Husayn

Commentary Criticizes Mubarak Initiative

TA071455 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 85 p 10

[Moshe Zaq Commentary: "10 Years of Negotiation"]

[Text] President Mubarak can claim three successes for his "initiative":

1. He sowed divisiveness within the Israeli Government.

2. He improved his image in the U.S. arena, on the eve of his visit in Washington, without any substantial change in his policy.

3. He is seen in the Arab world as someone fighting for U.S. recognition of the PLO.

Mubarak told Israel, through his envoy Usamah al-Baz, that the negotiations could last up to 10 years. However, he wants to see the effects of his initiative immediately: in the Arab arena; in the U.S. arena; and mostly in sowing division within the Israeli society.

The Israelis, and among them Israeli ministers of both sides of the national unity government, are helping him achieve his objectives. Some are doing so intentionally, and others inadvertently. They are helping him not only to improve his image as someone who is supposedly trying to renew the peace process, but mainly to fulfill his desire to heat up the public controversy between the various components of the government. This controversy can discourage Israel's friends in Congress, who intended to pressure Mubarak on the issue of fulfilling the peace agreement with Israel, when he comes to ask for additional U.S. aid to extricate Egypt from its difficulties.

The controversy that erupted wtihin the government gave Egypt the "alibi" it was looking for. It will be able to justify its obstinacy in the preliminary discussions currently being held (and the Egyptians insist that these are preliminary clarification talks only, not negotiations) by pointing to the differences of opinion within the Israeli Government. The unnecessary emphasis on the different tactical positions of the government's components created the incorrect impression that there are some in the government who are against the complete implementation of the peace treaty with Egypt, with all its clauses, both those dealing with bilateral relations and those on negotiations on autonomy. Egypt is interested in creating this impression. From a tactical viewpoint it weakens Israel's bargaining position. Therefore, it was logical to assume that the prime minister would have completely rejected this despicable attempt to sow divisiveness within the Israeli Government.

Israel would have strengthened its bargaining position had it clarified to Mubarak that the discussions are not being held with the Labor Party nor with the Likud, but rather with an Israeli Government united in its belief that we should strive for full peace with our neighbors.

It is true that the most important thing is to accelerate the dialogue — which in itself is positive, even if its results do not live up to the expectations. However, ignoring this awareness shortened the expected life span of the "initiative." It opened the possibility for Egypt of escaping from the initiative immediately following Mubarak's visit to Washington.

When Israeli delegates heard from top Egyptian officials that the Likud ministers are hampering the dialogue with Egypt, they did not bother to immediately refute these claims; instead, they took the trouble to spread them in Israel. Perhaps this was a justified move from a partisan viewpoint; however, from the national viewpoint, this may have doomed the preliminary talks. When Israel unequivocally rejects the Egyptian demand to have any kind of dialogue between the United States and the PLO before an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian meeting in Cairo, the Egyptians will claim that it is the Likud's fault, whereas this is in fact the firm position of the entire Cabinet.

Fifteen years ago Egypt was behind the dismantling of a national unity government. When Al-Nasir accepted Rogers' initiative on a cease-fire in the war of attrition — in order to allow the beginning of negotiations mediated by (Gunnar Jarring) — the six GAHAL [Herut-Liberal bloc] ministers left the government. Nevertheless the negotiations were not held. Al-Nasir preferred to use the cease-fire to reinforce his missile positions along the Suez Canal.

Obviously Mubarak should not be compared with Al-Nasir. Nevertheless, any diplomat knows how to take advantage of the opposition's weaknesses in any negotiations. It is convenient for Egyptian diplomacy to take advantage of what it sees as a basic conflict between the components of the present government. Now that Egypt is about to exert an effort to increase the military and economic aid from the United States, it is convenient that Israel is busy with an internal controversy, and will not bother Egypt with demands that it would find difficult to avoid in the discussions with U.S. Congress, and which would be difficult for it to fulfill without angering the Arab countries.

Therefore there was no place for the public debate that erupted between the Cabinet ministers; there was no sense in uncovering the differences of opinion, not during the day or at night. The suggestions brought by Usamah al-Baz to Israel were so sparse that there was actually nothing to argue about.

If the prime minister meant to extricate the negotiation cart from the sand of Tabah, and if he hoped that the acceleration created through this move would break the wall of Arab rejectionism, then the unnecessary debate might act as a boomerang. Instead of praises for Mubarak's initiative acting to extricate Egypt and Jordan from the PLO's embrace, the words of encouragement to Mubarak might release the Labor Party from its partnership with the Likud. It is logical to assume that this is not what Peres aimed at when he welcomed Mubarak's statements. The image of a "yes" man is important for Peres and for Israel. However, the prime minister has also heard clear words from the envoy who came to him in the middle of the night. He has learned from the envoy that Egypt is thinking about negotiations that could last up to 10 years. For negotiations lasting 10 years, we do not have to pay the heavy price of an immediate dismantling of the national unity government.

President Kennedy used to quote Churchill, who said: Democracy is not a perfect system, but it is by far the best one I know. In the same vein, it could be said that the national unity government is not the most perfect government, but in the present conditions any other government could only be worse.

Briefs

January Unemployment Statistics — During January there was a decrease in unemployment and in demand for workers. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that during January 42,700 people were registered in employment agencies, approximately 5,000 fewer than the previous month. There was also a sharp decrease in demand for workers. During January there were requests for approximately 15,200 workers — 2,500 fewer than in December. [Summary] [*Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Mar 85 TA*]

Arab Labor Statistics — An average of 90,000 persons per week from Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip were employed in Israel last year, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday. This compares with 88,000 in 1983. These workers constituted 37 per cent of all employed residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Some 50,000 of these workers were from Judaea and Samaria (48,000 in 1983), while 40,000 were from the Gaza Strip (the same as in the previous year). [Text] [*Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Mar 85 TA*]

ALGERIA

Prime Minister Meets GDR, Turkish Officials

LD081024 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abdelhamid Ibrahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, received today Mr Hans Reichelt, the GDR deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of environmental protection and water management, who is visiting Algeria as the head of an important delegation. The talks included the prospects of bilateral cooperation.

On the same day, the prime minister received Mr Cahit Aral, Turkish minister of industry and commerce. The talks during this meeting were centered around the prospects for consolidating bilateral cooperation.

Also attending the meetings was Brother Mohamed Abarkane, the deputy minister of foreign trade.

LIBYA

Iraqi, Tunisian Groups To Join Pan-Arab Command

LD071428 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] In the wake of the announcement made by the brother leader for the formation of the Pan-Arab Council to lead the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland to confront imperialism and Zionism, the Free Unionists Movement in Tunisia and the National and Pan-Arab Front in Iraq have announced that they are joining the pan-Arab command to lead the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland. Both groups sent cables to the brother leader in this regard.

GDR Agriculture Minister Concludes Visit

LD080023 Tripoli JANA in English 1926 GMT 7 Mar 85

["Democratic Germany Minister of Agriculture Leaves Tripoli" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 14, March 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Minister of Agriculture in the Republic of Democratic Germany Arestas Orela [name and title as received] this evening left Tripoli after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He gave an announcement to JANA reporter in which he expressed deep appreciation for the huge development achieved in Libya, thanks to Al Fateh great revolution. He said, this huge development is reflected in the attention given by the Jamahiriyah to heavy and light industries and the food production, something you see in the form of the national sections in Tripoli's international fair.

He went on to say, our meetings in the Jamahiriyah during this visit have proved that there are great potential for developing cooperation between the two countries particularly in science, technology and exchange of the know how.

SUDAN

Numayri Calls Al-Qadhdhafi 'Enemy,' Rejects Aid

LD091442 Hamburg DPA in German 1342 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Bonn, 7 Mar (DPA) — Ja'far Numayri, Sudanese president, will not accept the Libyan offer of economic aid, but will continue to pursue the goal of economic integration with Egypt. Numayri stated this to Volkmar Koehler, parliamentary secretary of state in the Bonn Development Ministry, during the latter's recent visit to Khartoum. As Koehler stated to DPA on his return to Bonn, Numayri described the Libyan revolutionary leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, as a politician with whom one, admittedly, has to talk, but who is an "enemy" and a "dangerous man."

According to the parliamentary secretary of state, Bonn will continue to give the Sudan economic aid, but will, in the future, concentrate this assistance on agricultural projects and resettlement of the migrating rural population.

Vice President Urges 'Outlaws' To Negotiate

JN021838 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1804 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Mar (SUNA) — Vice President Joseph Lagu has affirmed the Sudanese people's rallying around their leadership and revolution. He appealed to the outlaws to respond to the president's call to resolve differences through dialogue instead of resorting to the use of arms, which kills innocent people. [passage indistinct] He said: We, the Sudanese, must sit down together and solve our problems. He added: Our experience in this regard in the past was successful in Addis Ababa and Port Sudan. We, as Sudanese, have not changed.

Concluding his statement, the vice president said: We must all put the interest of our people above everything else. We must rise above our personal interests and may Sudan continue to be independent and united.

Officials Support Numayri's Call for Unity, Peace

SSU Secretary General

JN051056 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Malakal, Sudan, Mar. 5 (SUNA) — The Sudanese Socialist Union (S.S.U) Secretary General Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir 'Umar has called on those who carry weapons to forget their past feuds and open new page in the history of relations among the one nation's sons. Addressing the inaugurating session of the Sudanese Socialist Union first conference in the Upper Nile Region yesterday 'Umar stated that Numayri's peace appeal for dialogue is merely emerging from the base of power and tolerance.

Addis Ababa accords of 1972 had put an end to the 17-year old bloodshed and was ranked as an exemplary pattern to settlement of such conflict that minorities involve, 'Umar remarked. He called upon the conferees to encourage and honor the value of work, reclaim arable land and double production as imperative means for solving the problems of the region.

Likewise the regional Governor Daniel Koat Mathews addressed the conference expressing hope that practical recommendations and resolutions would emerge. The conference will focus on organizing and devloping of the regional secretariats as well as increasing the consciousness of the masses the governor went on.

Assembly Group Supports Numayri

JN051806 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumad Thani 13, 5 Mar (SUNA) — The Peoples Assembly's Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) group issued a statement today affirming its full support to the address President Nuamyri delivered to the nation on the occasion of its unity day celebrations.

Praising the revolution's announcement of a unilateral ceasefire to forestall bloodletting by sons of the same nation, the statement stressed the group's firm stand behind the president and urged their brothers who took up arms in the south to respond to the president for the national interest by laying down arms and resort to dialogue. The statement further called on all the state establishments and citizens to exert efforts for the success of the national committee assigned to conduct dialogue leading to the realization of peace.

Concluding, the statement concurred with President Numayri's part of the address dealing with the public service and exhorted the control and legislative institutions in the country to shoulder their roles fully and purify the public service of corruption and associated vices.

Equatoria Governor Praises Speech

JN061728 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Juba, 6 Mar (SUNA) — Equatoria Region Governor EngineerJoseph Tambarah has praised President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri's speech on the 13th anniversary of national unity. In a statement to SUNA, he said that the leader's speech to the nation expressed the spirit of courage and determination to confront the causes of the homeland.

He added that his excellency proposed the principle of tolerance and the settlement of disputes among the sons of the one homeland through dialogue instead of fighting. He added that a unilateral cease-fire stresses this spirit. At the end of his statement, he urged the outlaws to resort to reason in the interest of Sudan and its people.

Upper Nile Governor Comments on Security Situation

JN051018 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Malakal Mar. 5 (SUNA) Upper Nile Region Governor Daniel Koat yesterday hoped that the groups of Garang and William John will enter dialogue similar to the underway with 'Abdallah Shoul group which has showed deep response to positive participation for the sake of peace. In a statement to SUNA Koat described the security situation in the region as better than any time in the past and that his government had adopted arrangements to overcome shortages in supply commodites at some areas due to the outlaws' raids at the properties of innocent people.

On Addis Ababa agreement he said the resultant national unity helped in establishing administrative infrastructures in southern Sudan. On Numayri's statement on national unity day, he praised the president's decision to form a national committee for dialogue and hoped that the other party would respond as soon as possible.

In a similar statement Equatoria Deputy Governor Francis Wado said the motives that prompted the president to declare cease fire and stop attacking outlaws should be considered seriously by the outlaws. He appreciated the formation of the national committee and said it would support Numayri's continued call for peace. On the security situation in the region he said it is stable regardless of the minor incidents that took place recently.

Saudi Paper Interviews Sudanese Army Spokesman

GF061626 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 3 Mar 85 p 12

[Interview with Major General Babakr 'Abd al-Rahim, secretary of the regular forces in the ruling Sudanese Socialist Union in Sudan, and official spokesman for the Sudanese Armed Forces, by *AL-MADINAH* correspondent Muhammad Ahmad 'Awad in Khartoum — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-MADINAH*: What is your evaluation of the military situation in southern Sudan in light of the recent battles fought by the Sudanese Army?

Babakr: The facts of the security situation in the three regions of southern Sudan is that the Army has complete control over the situation following the recent operations carried out by the Armed Forces. Because the initiative was in the hands of the Armed Forces, the operations were highly successful. We were able to secure our borders fully in the Equatoria Region. There are no pockets [of resistance] in this region and they [the rebels] have become dispersed groups, particularly after the battle of Winji Pool. The rebels were dispersed into small units and contact among them was severed. The battle of Winji Pool also caused them material and moral losses. Large numbers of them escaped to Uganda. They lost their leadership and were dispersed.

Regarding the Upper Nile Region — whose eastern borders are adjacent to Ethiopia — where their camps are, they carry out raids. Our forces were able to repulse the attack recently

launched against the Jokau garrison on the borders with Ethiopia, inflicting heavy losses on the rebels and capturing large quantities of weapons. Their remnants retreated into Ethiopian territory. From this, one can be certain that the Equatoria and Upper Nile Regions are secure, even though the Upper Nile Region is adjacent to Ethiopia from where the rebels infiltrate.

Regarding Bahr al-Ghazal region, there are some pockets [of resistance]. These are small groups which carry out thefts and rob commercial vehicles.

AL-MADINAH: In view of the latest battles, some observers have pointed out that the Sudanese authorities have decided on a military solution to the rebel problem in southern Sudan. How true is that?

Babakr: This is not true. We favor a peaceful solution. President Numayri has said this repeatedly, because he knows that these wars are not conventional ones between two countries, but rather guerrilla warfare waged by our Armed Forces against some misguided Sudanese people. We call them misguided because the vast majority of these people do not know the real goals and aims of their leaders. The leaders have either an intellectual dispute with the Sudanese Government or personal ambitions to assume posts and obtain personal gains. As for the vast majority of these people, they are misled, and in this respect tribal conflict and concepts play a major role in their deception. For this reason, we believe that a military solution is not the ideal solution. For instance, we do not fight Ethiopia as a country, despite its covert aid to the rebels.

AL-MADINAH: President Numayri recently reiterated his call to John Garang [commander of the Sudanese Popular Liberation Army] and his group to negotiate. What, in your opinion, is the minimum requirement acceptable to both sides — the Sudanese authorities and the rebel leaders — to negotiate?

Babakr: The minimum requirement is a unified Sudan — united by its existing constitutional, political, and executive institutions, and by its very being and geographical boundaries. We cannot depart from this framework, since any such departure is a departure from the constitution. However, if there are political differences, if there are those who believe that provincial rule is not compatible with southern Sudan, and if there are problems connected with the issue of the boundaries of the provinces and the issue of aid from the central [government], or any other details, then all that is left to the southern brothers to decide. This is subject to discussion. However, the basic matters which are represented by a united Sudan, unified by its standing organs, are not subject to discussion.

AL-MADINAH: It has been said that the current rebel movement differs from the previous one, as evidenced by the presence of some northerners — military and otherwise. What is your evaluation of this?

Babakr: This is irrefutable proof that this movement is ideological. The previous movement was a separatist movement which had demands. It is clear that some of the leaders have their [ideological] tendencies. For instance, John Garang is a communist, although he disclaims this, in addition to the others who are known for their ideological tendencies.

AL-MADINAH: The movement and spread of rebel activity to all regions of southern Sudan indicates that there are large numbers of rebels. How large is this force, in your opinion? How has it been able to spread so quickly?

Babakr: The numerical strength of the rebels is too small to form an appreciable ratio to Sudan's population. There are approximately 10,000 to 12,000 individuals. Most of them are oppressed and misguided. However, it has been noticed that many of them have begun to return because they have been let down after being promised that they will travel to Russia and other communist countries to study or receive training. This has happened to a large number of students.

Actually, the number of rebels does not help them to spread. Their deployment has been in the border areas between Sudan and Ethiopia. They deployed in small groups in remote villages. The geographical situation of the south and the jungles facilitated their movement and their mixing with the citizens whom they intimidated and exploited. If we had had methods of mobility and of establishing border points in all positions, in addition to the cooperation of the neighboring states, it would have been possible to severely limit their activity. However, natural conditions and the remoteness of border points from our supervision and control, owing to inadequate capabilities in establishing advanced police points. [sentence as published] Consequently, the spreading of the rebels is not a result of their strength but a result of natural conditions.

AL-MADINAH: We recently heard of the arrest of a negotiating delegation led by the governor of one of the southern provinces. Is this true? Where are they now?

Babakr: Yes, a large delegation, led by a governor and a number of military and civilian officials, has been arrested. However, thank God, some of them were able to escape after the battle of Winji Pool, while the others were released. I believe that the arrest of a negotiating delegation proves the lack of understanding by the rebel leaders and their lack of knowledge of the meaning of negotiations. It proves the ignorance in which the rebel leaders live.

AL-MADINAH: Some reports have spoken of Romanian-Egyptian support for the Sudanese forces. What form does this support take? And what about the reports that there are Egyptian forces in southern Sudan?

Babakr: As is known, we have a joint defense agreement with Egypt in the event of foreign aggression. This agreement is within the total integration between the two countries. With regard to Romania, we have an agreement that supplies us with military equipment.

Regarding what is said about the presence of Egyptian forces in southern Sudan, this has no basis at all. There is not a single Egyptian soldier in Sudan. I challenge anyone to find a single foreign soldier in Sudan, other than the Romanian and Egyptian technical experts who arrive with the military equipment with

which these countries supply us for the purpose of training. There is not a fighting force from any country in Sudan. Until now we have not needed any foreign force, even from Egypt, with which we have a joint defense agreement.

AL-MADINAH: What about U.S. military aid?

Babakr: We have not received urgent U.S. aid, as reported in the United States. However, we have an economic agreement with the United States to a sum of about $150 million including some military equipment. We have not, however, received any urgent U.S. military aid. The U.S. military aid is provided within the $150 million agreement. [passage omitted]

AL-MADINAH: In addition to the military operations in southern Sudan, is it within the military capability of Sudan to respond to any attack by any country?

Babakr: Every armed force has its capabilities. We can — with our present military capabilities — decide the issue of the rebellion in southern Sudan. We cannot, however, fight on more than one front. At the present time war has become an economic ability and cooperation between countries.

AL-MADINAH: Now that the Sudanese Economic Council has discussed the exploitation of the Sudanese oil which has been discovered, do you consider this an indication that drilling operations will be resumed? Furthermore, is it possible — in the wake of the latest battles — to resume drilling activity in southern Sudan?

Babakr: Yes, I believe so. Measures have been taken, and I believe that the preliminary measures prove that the Bentiu areas are safe, and the drilling companies, like Chevron and others, can work. I believe they are about to begin drilling operations and executing President's Numayri's directions to establish small refineries.

Radio SPLA: Ideology Committee on Bush Visit

EA061618 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] We now bring you a special commentary prepared by the Ideology Committee of SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] and presented to you by Comrade (Deidria Dammbae).

The presence of U.S. Vice President George Bush in Sudan does not signify peace, but direct intervention by U.S. imperialism to escalate the war against the Sudanese people. Ever since Ronald Reagan was reelected President of the United States, he has implacably declared his admiration and support for the neofascist regime of Numayri as a friendly government in the same characteristic manner he extols the bloody regimes that sow terror in Chile, South Africa, Israel, and Pakistan.

In line with his crazy logic, the spokesman of the current administration in Washington [words indistinct] have soared the military budget of the genocidal regime in Khartoum and announced that they would provide two billion [unit unspecified] to promote the alleged development of the Sudan. In essence, what this means is increased penetration and domination by U.S. imperialism to deepen our country's dependency on the United States.

This shows that imperialism is not in a position to solve any of the problems faced by the Sudanese people, nor will it ever be able to do so because it is the main cause of those problems. Indeed it has created, perpetuated, and aggravated them. Therefore, there is no generosity or philanthropy in the Yankee imperialist proposed so-called economic recovery plan for the Sudan.

The question that arises is what are the real objectives of Mr Bush's much-talked visit to our country? It is significant that the U.S. vice president on arrival in Khartoum expressed strong support for the crisis-ridden regime of Numayri. He also said he would closely monitor the popular war waged by the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] to overthrow the current pro-imperialist junta.

There should be no mistake then about the dangerous implications of Bush's visit to the Sudan. His utterances here are clearly intimating the possibility of collective military action by the United States and its puppet armies in the region against those countries that have liberated themselves or are fighting to liberate themselves from imperialist domination.

Thus the vice president's real objectives are clear: namely, to continue the efforts of the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie to press-gang progressive states into submission; to drown the armed struggle of the Sudanese people in blood and fire; to halt the progress of the movement for emancipation; to reinforce their domination; and to place the region under even tighter control. All the rest of the Bush pronouncement is empty talk and second rate political gimmickry.

On the basis of this came Mr Bush, like his White House boss, Reagan, the leader of the most powerful and aggressive imperialist state on earth, the man responsible for the biggest arms race known to history, the promoter of assassination of tens of thousands of men, women, and children in the Sudan, El Salvador, the manufacturer of the neutron bomb, the friend of Numayri, Pinochet of South Africa's racists, of the Zionist aggressors, etc. Can such a man be worthy of honor and respect? Our country's name cannot be narrowed by the imperialists demagogic tricks.

The Yankee rulers with their impotent relics and warmongering trends amounts to giving the Sudan more of the same poison which has already plunged it into a state of profound political crisis and underdevelopment and keep it there [as heard]. These forces are to be more alert, ready, and vigilant than ever before.

Radio SPLA Details Battle With Government Troops

EA061648 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Details of last Sunday's [3 March] battle between the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces and the government troops who attempted to recapture Jokau have emerged. The enemy force that was dispersed and completely annihilated

was under the command of Colonel 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad (Balla). Col (Balla) was killed in the engagement with 3 officers and more than 200 soldiers. One of the three officers was identified as Second Lieutenant ('Abd al-Hamid Harun).

The government troops who were travelling in a convoy of 13 trucks were attacked by SPLA forces of (Bilfam), Lion, Hippo, and Jamus Battalions commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Carabino Kuanyin Bol, deputy commander in chief.

Eight trucks without registration numbers were destroyed and two Magirus 6x6 trucks captured in good working condition. Weapons and equipment captured by the SPLA include mortars, heavy machineguns, 200 MM-3 automatic rifles, AKMs, a large quantity of various sizes of ammunition, mortar shells, and English-made TRA-931 radio sets.

The SPLA forces are still collecting and counting weapons left behind by the enemy soldiers. Meanwhile the fighting, which took 5 hours, ended with the capture of two enemy soldiers. The two, Corporal Abubakr 'Abd al-Karim, military No 420645, from Battalion 426 based at Jabal Awliya and Lance Corporal Sayf al-Din Sharif al-Haj, military code No 618523, from Border Guard Battalion 497, are both from Nyala in western Sudan.

The captured men told Lt Col Carabino Kuanyin Bol, deputy commander in chief, that they came to fight against their will and have expressed their desire to join the SPLA. They said that Numayri's government has failed to solve the economic problems in the country, particularly in western sudan. They claimed that they would have joined the SPLA earlier had they had the chance to do so.

SPLA search continues for the scattered and scared government soldiers in the forest around Jokau. The commander of the SPLA forces has assured the scattered goverament soldiers safety if they surrender to SPLA.

Radio SPLA: 1,500 From Equatoria Join SPLA-SPLM

EA051500 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] More than 1,500 youth from Equatoria have voluntarily joined the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]. The youth, who were led by Eustace Ben Robin Oduho, a teaching assistant at the university of Juba, Lino Ofyuk Adaha, Patrick Lotwar and 'Aziz Atari, reported to the SPLA forces in southern Upper Nile operational zone, and were welcomed to the SPLA-SPLM by the commander of the zone.

Talking to Radio SPLA correspondent in the area, Eustace Ben Robin Oduho said reference to the SPLA-SPLM as a Dinka organization or movement is only to mystify the comman man in Juba in order to give the impression that things are normal while in actual fact the situation in Juba is one of terror and fear. The common man is subjected to poverty while the rich enjoy the suffering of others, he concluded.

TUNISIA

Reportage on Visit of French Foreign Minister

Meets With Counterpart

LD071736 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi today held a working meeting with his French opposite number, Ronald Dumas, during which he expressed appreciation for the visit. He called for the continuation of contacts in order to consolidate the ties of cooperation and friendship between France and Tunisia in accordance with the will of President Habib Bourguiba and in the interest of both sides.

The French minister expressed pleasure at meeting President Habib Bourguiba this morning. He confirmed his determination to continue supporting bilateral cooperation in all fields in accordance with the political will of the two countries. Both sides also reviewed the various aspects of Tunisian-French cooperation in the light of opening the EEC to Spain and Portugal in January 1986, and the possible effects on Tunisian exports to the EEC. Both sides also reviewed the situation in the Arab world and the current international problems, including the Middle East.

Received by President Bourguiba

LD071809 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba today received French External Relations Minister Ronald Dumas, according him a warm reception. In the presence of Prime Minister Mzali; his son, Habib Bourguiba; Foreign Minister Essebsi; and the French ambassador to Tunisia, he discussed past events and also reviewed current issues.

Holds Press Conference, Departs

LD080658 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpts] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Tunis tonight at the end of his 24-hour visit. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and by the French ambassador to Tunisia.

Roland Dumas held a press conference tonight in which he discussed his talks with Tunisian officials on bilateral international issues. He explained that his visit to Tunisia, which falls within the framework of his contacts with friendly states, enabled him to meet President Habib Bourguiba, who asked him to convey friendly greetings to French President Francois Mitterrand. They also discussed the excellent bilateral relations and current international problems.

Roland Dumas spoke of relations of cooperation between Tunisia and France and the positive development of trade which has reached a good level. He added that the two sides have agreed to

further develop cultural and educational cooperation. He explained that he and Tunisian officials discussed international problems and the question of the Arab Maghreb, particularly Tunisia's initiative to establish concord among the states of the region. In this connection he underlined the identity of views of Tunisia and France.

As to his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, the French minister said they talked about the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement [words indistinct]. He noted that the Palestinian leader appreciates French efforts and hopes that France succeeds in the search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

ETHIOPIA

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives for 1-Week Visit 7 Mar

EA072327 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Addis Ababa this morning for a 1-week working visit to revolutionary Ethiopia at the invitation of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee.

In a statement on arrival, Comrade Hawatimah said that during his stay in Ethiopia he will hold talks with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, and other party members on bilateral issues with particular reference to ways of strengthening existing relations between revolutionary Ethiopia and the Palestinian people. He said the main purpose of his current visit is to express solidarity between his organization and the Ethiopian revolutionary party and government and strong support for the unity of Ethiopia, and to further strengthen relations. He said the Ethiopian revolution is greatly respected and admired by the Palestinian and Arab peoples and is exemplary in Africa and the Middle East.

He condemned Zionist Israel's recent shameful act of taking Ethiopian citizens away from their country in coordination with President Numayri's government and the support of imperialist and reactionary powers.

On arrival in Addis Ababa, Comrade Hawatimah was met by Comrades Lemu Abebe, WPE Central Committee Political Bureau member and chairman of the Central Committee Control Commission; Ashagre Yigletu, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPE Central Committee; Muhammad (Al-Aqrani), DFLP representative to Ethiopia, and the ambassadors of Libya, Algeria, and the PDRY.

WPE Central Control Commission Holds Session

EA071851 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] *SERTO ADER* has disclosed that the Central Control Commission of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee held its second regular meeting early this week. The meeting heard and discussed the report of the Central Commission and approved various basic documents as well as having a lengthy exchange of ideas on party control activities. The paper notes that according to the report, after its first meeting 6 months ago the Central Control Commission drew up detailed working plans for the implementation of WPE programs and regulations through the commission's executive body. It has also been holding talks with heads of departments and other concerned organizations that are not within the party bodies, has organized its own internal administration, established its own 2-year working plan and a 6-month detailed working plan, and created favorable conditions for the well-being of the party and the development of the discipline of its members.

TANZANIA

Nyerere on Party-Government Ties, President's Power

EA081007 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — CCM [Chama Cha Mapinduzi] Chairman Mwalimu Nyerere has said the party will appoint a citizen with full leadership qualities to contest the presidency in the next general elections after Mwalimu retires from the presidency towards the end of this year. He said he was certain that among the 20 million Tanzanians there are citizens capable to taking over the presidency of the United Republic.

Mwalimu said this in an interview for a journalist of the Netherlands central radio in Dar es Salaam.

On the relationship between the party and the government, Mwalimu said that, as party chairman, he will not involve himself directly in government issues. He said: Although the party will continue to hold the reins of leadership in national issues and make decisions that will be implemented by the government, that does not mean that the powers of the president will be lessened.

He stressed that the second president of the United Republic will have powers similar to the presidential powers he has now.

Meanwhile, President Nyerere said, Tanzania intended reaching agreement with the IMF on conditions acceptable to both parties. He stressed that Tanzania had always wanted to reach agreement with the IMF but was not prepared to accept conditions that would harm the people.

In the interview, Mwalimu called on countries friendly to Tanzania not to put this country in a situation that would compel it to supress its people.

On relations with the West, Mwalimu said the major problem of those countries is their habit of ignoring the problems of developing countries.

He said it had been difficult to persuade the West to consider the poor countries' problems that have been created by the bad international economic order.

President Nyerere leaves Dar es Salaam tomorrow for a visit to three European countries, namely the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, and Britain.

Nyerere Calls Nkomati Accord 'Nonstarter'

LD072117 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The chairman of the Frontline States, Mwalimu Nyerere, has said the Nkomati Accord was never an alternative to the African liberation struggle, and declared that Africa will continue with the struggle until the continent was liberated. Mwalimu was commenting on the pact signed between Mozambique and South Africa last year during an interview with the Nairobi-based Dutch radio and newspaper correspondent. He reiterated that the accord was a nonstarter, because South Africans had violated it even as they were signing it and ever since the racist regime had continued to train, arm, and infiltrate armed bandits into Mozambique to destabilize the country.

Mwalimu also spoke about the debt problem facing third world countries, in particular Africa. He said it was immoral that the continent had to pay out billions of dollars in annual interest on a debt of about $150 billion to Western banks while its people were starving. He warned that the current debt problem facing Africa would force the continent to ask what was going on and who was paying whom.

UGANDA

UPC Executive Committee Meets, Appoints Officials

EA070440 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] The UPC [Uganda People's Congress] Central Executive Committee met today under the chairmanship of the party president, Dr A. Milton Obote. During the morning session, the meeting dealt with administrative matters concerning various party organs. In the afternoon, the meeting discussed the economy and measures being taken by government to strengthen economic recovery. The Central Executive Committee proposed a number of measures for strengthening the administration of the party organs and in the field of the economy.

The meeting appointed Mr Dong Achung Achodi to be the chief administrative secretary. During the meeting the president of the party announced the appointment of Haji Badru Wegulu as chairman of the National Council. The National Council will meet tomorrow at 10 am in the conference center.

CHAD

Bardai: Food Aid to Military; Thousands Flee to Sudan

AB072200 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The Prefecture of Biltine, which shares a common border with Sudan, has become the storage center of thousands of tons of food donated by international agencies and various countries to Chadians suffering from natural and political calamities. In fact, in the Ouaddai region, at a time [words indistinct] a fleet of vehicles carrying food donations passes by the hungry people of the area to the FAN military base in (Aram Konou).

Tens of thousands of Chadians, who cannot endure this hell, continue to cross the border to take refuge in Sudan. Other tens of thousands of Chadians preferred to head toward the south [words indistinct]. In any case, events in Biltine show that man's patience has its limits.

GABON

Petroleum, Mining Agreement Signed With Angola

MB071533 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola and Gabon signed a petroleum and mining cooperation accord at the end of the official visit of the Angolan minister of energy, Pedro de Castro van Dunem, to Libreville 2 days ago. The accord provides for the strenthening of bilateral cooperation in the mining and petroleum fields, based on mutual gains and respect for mutual interests.

During his stay in Gabon, the Angolan minister of energy was received by Omar Bongo, the Gabonese president, to whom he handed a personal message from Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the Angolan head of state. Pedro de Castro van Dunem has already returned to Luanda.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Receives Angolan Envoy, Dos Santos Message

MB080618 Luanda Domestic Service in Portugese 0500 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] In Kinshasa yesterday, Miguel Gaspar Neto, the Angolan ambassador to Zaire, was received in audience by Field Marshal Mobuto Sese Seko, the Zairian head of state, to whom he delivered a message from Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Louis Neto, a senior official from the presidency of the People's Republic of Angola, was present at the audience, as well as the Zairian state commissioner for foreign affairs.

Briefs

Envoys Present Credentials — Kinshasa, 7 Mar (AZAP) — MPR founding chairman Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko yesterday received the credentials of Patrick Howard Caines Eyers, the new ambassador of the United Kingdom; Felix Faber, Guinean ambassador; and Stanislas Kombe Moussa, Malian ambassador. [Text] [*Kinshasa AZAP in French 0850 GMT 7 Mar 85 AB*]

PRC Envoy Departs — Kinshasa, 7 Mar (AZAP) — PRC ambassador to Zaire and Madame Li Shanyi Tuesday evening hosted a reception at their Gombe official residence on the occasion of their definitive departure from the Republic of Zaire. [Text] [*Kinshasa AZAP in French 0855 GMT 7 Mar 85 AB*]

GHANA

Prisoners, Two Former Ministers Granted Amnesty

AB071850 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] To commemorate the 28th anniversary of the country's independence, the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has granted amnesty to 202 prisoners, whose release has been recommended on medical grounds, together with some others who have also been released on compassionate grounds. All persons serving terms of imprisonment for breach of curfew have also been granted amnesty.

The PNDC has also ordered the release on bail of two former ministers under the People's National Party administration. They are Messrs S.K. Riley-Poku, former minister for defense, and Dr J.S. Nabila, former minister for presidential affairs.

GUINEA

Guinea-Bissau's Vieira Comments After Meeting Conte

AB072140 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The head of state, Colonel Lansana Conte, and a delegation of the Military Committee for National Redress went to Boke this morning. Mamadou Conte has a report on the event.

[Begin recording] [Mamadou Conte] Boke is a region of 1,000 treasures, which always inspires [words indistinct] and poetry. Presidents Lansana Conte and Joao Bernardo Vieira "Nino" of Guinea-Bissau met at Kamsar, an industrial town, today, Thursday, 7 March. [Words indsitinct] our two countries are historically and geographically similar, though divided by communication problems. Summit meetings ensure that mutual trust between states is preserved. It is within this framework that one may place the meeting between Presidents Lansana Conte and Joao Bernardo Vieira "Nino," a short but very significant meeting which enabled the two heads of government to examine the various aspects of their cooperation and fix new landmarks on the path of history.

President "Nino," who arrived at Kawa-Kamsar at 1115, spoke to the press:

[Unidentified reporter] You have arrived today on the African soil of Guinea. We would be very happy to know the aim of your visit to Kamsar and of the purpose of your meeting with your brother and friend, Col Lansana Conte.

[Vieira] My visit falls within the framework of our regular meetings [words indistinct]. Our meeting enabled us to discuss bilateral cooperation, and it gave me the opportunity of meeting with President Lansana Conte on a number of issues.

[Reporter] As you are aware, after the conference of Portuguese-speaking countries, its seems Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe decided to send army contingents to Angola and Mozambique. Mr President, could you give us some more information about this?

[Vieira] There is no additional information to be given because we have already denied this report. We never envisaged this. You may refer to the final communique issued at the end of the Portuguese-speaking African heads of state summit. We condemned South Africa. Africa condemns subversive acts against the legal governments of Angola and Mozambique. All we gave was moral and political support to the two countries concerned. African countries have already condemned South Africa for its barbaric actions against Luanda and Maputo.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr President.

[Mamadou Conte] The two presidents held private talks during which they reviewed bilateral, African, and international issues. They later met at the main hall of the Kamsar Development and Training Center for a meeting which was extended to include delegations of the two presidents.

During this meeting, President "Nino" expressed happiness with the excellent friendly relations between our two countries. Concerning the border dispute examined by the arbitration court in the Hague, President "Nino" said as far the two countries are concerned, there can be no winner or loser in the case. It is now up to us to cooperate in order to exploit the wealth of the region for the benefit of our two peoples.

For his part, President Lansana Conte hailed the initiative taken on the mutual agreement by the two countries to resolve a dispute over a problem that was inherited by the two governments. What should interest us is the judgment of the people who only want peace and progress. The dotards are blowing loud their trumpets of division by trying to point to a winner and a loser. We must find ways and means to stop all these speculations.

Col Lansana Conte also expressed the Republic of Guinea's readiness to promote frank and loyal cooperation with Guinea-Bissau. To this end, if there is oil, let us rationally exploit it for the benefit of our two peoples. Let us avoid going to the Hague and work together for a united and prosperous Africa, he added.

After the two speeches, experts of the two countries met in working committees to establish new benchmarks. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Eastman Meets With UK's Howe in London

For a Monrovia Radio ELWA report on the meeting in London of Foreign Affairs Minister T. Ernest Eastman with Sir Geoffrey Howe, British foreign and commonwealth secretary, see the United Kingdom section of the 8 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

TOGO

Cape Verde President Departs After Official Visit

AB071315 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira, who had been on an official visit to Togo since last Monday, yesterday arrived in Kara, which he left this morning for his country. He was seen off at the Niamtougou International Airport by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the Republic, who was accompanied by eminent Togolese dignitaries. Party activists from Niamtougou and Kande, several folk dancing groups, and a very large crowd were also at the airport to wish a warm farewell to President Pereira.

The plane left at about 1100 for Praia, capital of Cape Verde, with President Pereira, his wife, and their entourage.

Communique Issued

AB071530 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Joint communique on visit of Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira to Togo issued in Kara on 7 March; read by Togolese Foreign Minister Ato Koffi Amegah — recorded]

[Excerpts] His Excellency Mr Aristides Pereira, president of the Republic of Cape Verde Islands, paid a friendly and official visit to Lome in the Republic of Togo from 4 to 7 March 1985 at the invitation of His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] and president of the Republic.

The two heads of state held discussions in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, studied the results of their bilateral relations, and examined with great attention the problems now engrossing people's minds in Africa and the world in general.

Concerning bilateral relations between the two countries, Presidents Aristides Pereira and Gnassingbe Eyadema agreed that it was necessary to strengthen the ties existing between the two countries, especially in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. In this regard, the two heads of state signed a basic agreement of cooperation during this visit.

After examining the current international situation, the two presidents became aware of the perfect similarity of their views on world problems, particularly those concerning Africa.

Concerning Africa, they examined successively the situation prevailing in Western Sahara, Chad, southern Africa, and Namibia. As far as the Chadian situation is concerned, they insisted on the need for a national reconciliation between the various warring factions under the auspices of the OAU in order to ensure that country's stability and socioeconomic development in peace. After examining the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state strongly condemned the inhuman policy of apartheid and reiterated their full support to the nationalists in southern Africa in their resolute struggle against the racist and anarchronistic regime in Pretoria. They insisted on the need for the OAU member countries to give more substantial assistance to the ANC. About Namibia, they denounced the maneuvers of the racist regime in Pretoria aimed at hindering the application of UN Security Council Resolution No 435 of 1978 relating to Namibia's accession to independence.

Presidents Pereira and Eyadema carefully examined the situation in the Middle East and strongly reaffirmed that a just and lasting peace must be achieved with the participation of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization. They deplored the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and reiterated their appeal to the two belligerents to agree on a cease-fire which is an essential precondition for negotiations to settle the conflict.

His Excellency President Aristides Pereira invited the founding chairman of the RPT and president of the Republic to pay an official visit to Cape Verde. Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be fixed later through common agreement.

Issued at Kara on 7 March 1985.

[Signed] For the Government of the Republic of Cape Verde islands: His Excellency Mr Aristides Pereira; For the Government of the Republic of Togo: His Excellency Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema [applause]

ANGOLA

New External Relations Minister, Envoys Appointed

MB080604 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The president of the Republic has signed a decree appointing Afonso Van Dunem "Mbinda" to the post of minister of external relations. Afonso van Dunem "Mbinda" is also the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Secretary for External Relations. In another decree, the head of state relieved Fernando Jose da Franca Dias van Dunem from the post of ambassador to Portugal and appointed him deputy minister of external relations. Accordingly, the ministry of external relations will now have two deputy ministers, namely Venancio da Moura and Franca van Dunem. To replace Franca van Dunem in Portugal, the president of the Republic has appointed Mwaete Joao Baptista, until now the Angolan ambassador to Cuba. The head of state also appointed Gaspar dos Santos Cardoso to the post of ambassador to Italy and Noemia Gabriel de Almeida Tavira to the post of ambassador to the Kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands and the EEC.

External Relations Official Meets Dumas in Paris

MB071646 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Venancio da Moura, deputy minister of external relations, and Roland Dumas, the French minister of external relations, discussed issues related to Namibia's independence in Paris the day before yesterday. The Angolan official briefed Minister Roland Dumas on progress in the ongoing process for peace in southern Africa, and again recalled South Africa's failure to abide by the Lusaka compromises signed with the People's Republic of Angola last year.

Venancio da Moura stopped over in Paris on his way back to Luanda, after taking part in an OAU ministerial council meeting in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. It should be recalled that at the Addis Ababa meeting the Angolan vice minister of external relations spoke on the prevailing situation in southern Africa, which is characterized by violence in South Africa and Namibia and the occupation of a portion of southern Angola by the South African Army.

BOTSWANA

Masire Comments on Economy, Dependence on RSA

MB071227 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has said that economically Botswana was relatively doing well despite the economic depression affecting the world. Dr Masire was speaking this morning in an interview with a reporter from the Norwegian television news department. The president expressed the hope that Botswana would emerge from the world depression not as badly as it could have if the economy was not properly managed.

Giving the background to Botswana's economy, Dr Masire said that when the Union of South Africa was established in 1910, provision was made for Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland [BLS] to join the union at a later stage. He said that it was for this reason that the British Government did not develop the BLS countries. He said that it was only when it became abundantly clear that the BLS countries did not want to be incorporated into the union that the British Government started initiating some developments in Botswana. At independence, there were very few developments in Botswana, but the government introduced a number of initiatives to reduce economic dependence on South Africa. The president cited the Botswana Enterprises development unity as one of the first concrete efforts to reduce dependence on South Africa. Another, he said, was the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. Dr Masire expressed the hope that one day the membership of SADCC will have risen to 10, when Namibia is free, and to 11, with the affiliation of majority-ruled South Africa.

Dr Masire also talked about South Africa's recent decision not to insist on signing a nonaggression pact with Botswana and said Botswana accepted the South African promise. He also said that Botswana was committed to the Lusaka manifesto and to the Geneva Convention to provide asylum to refugees who flee from their countries.

Foreign Minister Returns From OAU Meeting

MB071222 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, arrived home yesterday from Ethiopia where she attended the 41st ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU. A news release from the Department of External Affairs says the meeting, which was held jointly between foreign and economic ministers, discussed the OAU budget for the financial year 1985-86 and recommended it for approval by the next OAU summit. The meeting also discussed the draft agenda for the next assembly of heads of state and government which will devote part of its time to discussing the current economic situation in Africa. Botswana was reelected a member of the board for external auditors of the OAU and elected a member of the interim policy committee on the special emergency assistance fund for drought and famine in Africa at that meeting.

SOUTH AFRICA

Tutu on Constructive Engagement, U.S. Policy

DW071243 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 8 Mar 85 p 13

[Interview with Bishop Desmond Tutu by correspondent Andreas Kohlschuetter; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] DIE ZEIT: Washington's policy toward South Africa is called constructive engagement [in English]. What do you think of this policy?

Tutu: It is terrible. The quicker the Americans abandon this policy, the better.

DIE ZEIT: Because it does not work?

Tutu: Because this policy has caused no change at all. Rather, the Pretoria regime has become even more intransigent. Despite verbal assurances to the contrary, the policy of forced resettlement is continuing. As before, the blacks, and thus 73 percent of the people, are excluded by the so-called "new" Constitution from political codetermination. In addition, there has recently been a wave of arrests directed against the black "United Democratic Front" (UDF) and trade union leaders.

DIE ZEIT: Should the United States exert more pressure and show more firmness?

Tutu: If President Reagan were to do in South Africa what he is doing in Nicaragua, our situation would be quite different. Why can Reagan put great pressure on the Sandinists in Nicaragua or impose sanctions against Poland, while here in South Africa the same Americans tell us that imposing sanctions is impossible and ineffective? They are trying with all means to protect the white people in power.

DIE ZEIT: Do not prospects for the future have to be offered to the whites in South Africa so that developments can be channeled into a peaceful direction?

Tutu: What more hope can we give them than the promise that we are striving for a nonracist, democratic, and just society? Do it now, we tell the whites, while you still have the power to cause an evolution toward this new society. I repeatedly tell them that they will not be free until we, the blacks, are free.

Buthelezi Comments on U.S. Visit, Disinvestment
MB071809 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The chief minister of kwaZulu, Chief Buthelezi, says it is nonsense to suggest that he visited the United States recently to placate the South African Government. At a news conference in Durban today, Chief Buthelezi was asked why he was a leader of the campaign against disinvestment, when he was often maligned by the South African Government. He said he was doing it for his people, who would be worst affected by an economic crisis, and not to please the South African Government.

Chief Buthelezi stressed that he was involved in the struggle against the system of apartheid. He had asked President Reagan to bring diplomatic pressure to bear on the South African Government as part of the American policy of constructive engagement.

Chief Buthelezi said he was appalled by attacks on him by Bishop Desmond Tutu, Mrs Winnie Mandela, and Rev Allan Boesak, who were accusing him of working within the system. He said he found it extremely dangerous for clergymen to adopt diverse [as heard] roles, by denigrating those whose strategies differed from that of the political organizations to which they belonged.

Chief Buthelezi said every hesitancy on the part of the South African Government to tackle the question of real reform added to the stature of those who clamored for violent solutions, as well as those who were calling for economic sanctions against South Africa and for the politics of confrontation.

Chief Buthelezi said the state president had heightened expectations of change. If change were not forthcoming, political forces in the United States, which supported the politics of confrontation in South Africa, would gather momentum.

Johannesburg on P.W. Botha's Reply to U.S. Senator
MB071624 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "President Botha's Reply to Senator Kennedy"]

[Text] U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy appears to be a glutton for punishment. Apparently unaffected by the humiliation of his recent visit to South Africa, he has now laid himself open to a sharp response from President P.W. Botha through his call for the release of treason trialists being held in detention.

In a letter to President Botha, Senator Kennedy and 36 other U.S. senators expressed their concern over the arrest of members of the United Democratic Front [UDF] on charges of treason, and called for their immediate release. In a lengthy reply, President Botha said he was concerned that politicians such as Senator Kennedy should be so fundamentally uninformed and misinformed about the Republic, especially since it was they who sought to introduce legislation in the American Congress on matters which directly affected South Africa.

Senator Kennedy had the opportunity 2 months ago to gain firsthand knowledge of the complexities of South Africa. As it turned out, that was not his intention. Observers inside and outside South Africa are in agreement that Senator Kennedy did not come to South Africa to look and learn, but for reasons of pure self-interest — to bolster his flagging political fortunes at home.

The fact that Senator Kennedy learned very little during his visit is borne out by the fact that in his letter to President Botha, he spoke of the arrest of the leadership of the UDF. Even on such a small point, President Botha had to correct him. Those arrested, President Botha pointed out, did not constitute a leadership of the UDF. Nor did the charges arise from their membership of the UDF. They were not being held in terms of security legislation, Mr Botha said, but had been charged under South Africa's criminal law, which is similar to the criminal law of other Western countries, including the United States.

The call for their release disclosed a fundamental lack of understanding of the due process of law, Mr Botha said, adding that South African courts had a proud tradition of independence, and that the government could not interfere in court proceedings.

President Botha's letter covered a number of salient aspects of the sociopolitical situation as it exists in South Africa today, as well as developments in the reform process under way in the country. Senator Kennedy therefore now has another chance to acquaint himself with the South African situation. His education will undoubtedly be furthered by careful study of President Botha's letter.

Business Group Addresses Disinvestment Issue
MB080804 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The belief that South Africa has already shown itself capable of making important changes in policy with benefits to all is contained in a memorandum submitted to the South African Government by the American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa.

The memorandum deals primarily with issues closely allied to the U.S.-promoted disinvestment campaign. It was presented to the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, by the president of the chamber, Mr (Frank Lubke), and members of the executive. The memorandum represents the views of about 300 U.S. affiliated and South African company members. It covers government policy issues including urbanizaton, influx control, removals, citizenship, and housing.

Johannesburg Examines U.S. Disinvestment Bill
MB080542 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] A bill has been introduced in the U.S. Congress calling for a ban on further American investment in South Africa to persuade the government to change the country's internal policies.

The legislation, spearheaded by Senator Edward Kennedy of the Democratic Party, is intended to prohibit new investments and loans to South Africa with the exception of those earmarked for what are termed nondiscriminatory health care, housing, and education projects. It also calls for a ban on Krugerrand imports to the United States, and a ban on computer sales to the South African Government.

Penalties proposed for violations of the investment plan range from about 100,000 rand for individuals to 2 million rand for companies. The bill includes a clause that would allow the president to suspend sanctions if the South African Government made what is described as major progress in eliminating apartheid.

The Republican Party's chief cosponsor of the legislation, Senator Lowell Weicker, says he believes that President Reagan will sign the bill, but White House spokesman Mr Larry Speakes has said that the administration did not feel that the legislation will be at all helpful. The administration, he said, would pursue its own policy of contructive engagement designed to encourage reform in South Africa through low key diplomacy.

The chief executive of ASSOCOM [Associated Chambers of Commerce], Mr Raymond Parsons, said in his comment on the introduction of the legislation that it had become essential for the private sector to intensify its attempts to mobilize moderate opinion in the United States against the imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa. Speaking in Johannesburg, he said that the introduction of the legislation meant that the next few months would be crucial in the disinvestment debate. Recent opinion polls suggested a strong swing against disinvestment on the part of many Americans who, he said, favored a coordinated campaign by the South African private sector.

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Reiterates Claims on RSA Land
MB071820 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, last night defined the original borders of the Kingdom of Swaziland, which he said stretched as far as Pretoria, Mozambique, Ingwavuma, and Pongola. Addressing the Ghanaian community residing in Swaziland at the Yen Saan during the 28th independence anniversary of Ghana, Mr Mnisi said the colonial masters squeezed Swaziland from what it was until she became a dot. The Swazi foreign minister told the Ghanaian community that even though the country got a raw deal from her colonial masters about the land question, Swaziland will not give up until it regains its rightful land. Mr Mnisi said the Swaziland Government was presently talking to Pretoria about the land issue, adding that even the South African Government knows pretty well that the land in question belongs to the Swazi nation.

ZIMBABWE

Machel Arrives in Harare; Meeting Set With Mugabe
MB071945 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] President Samora Machel arrived this afternoon in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, on his way to Lusaka, Zambia, where he will attend a summit tomorrow of the heads of state and government of the frontline countries. Samora Machel arrived at Harare airport at about 1600 and was received by President Canaan Banana and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. The Mozambican president is accompanied by Joaquim Chissano, minister of foreign affairs; Lieutenant General Armando Panguene, deputy minister of national defense and political commissar of the FPLM; and Fernando Honwana, his personal assistant.

A source with the Mozambican delegation told AIM that President Samora Machel will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe this evening. Although the topics of discussion have not been disclosed, it is believed that the situation in southern Africa and bilateral relations will form part of the agenda. The presidential delegation will leave Harare for Lusaka tomorrow morning.

Mugabe on Murder of Kidnapped Tourists

MB080610 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The government has established beyond any doubt that the six foreign tourists kidnapped by armed dissidents near Lupane in July, 1982 were murdered 3 days after their capture. The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, told newsmen in Harare yesterday that the tourists, two Britons, two Australians, and two Americans, were huddled into a hut by a group of 22 dissidents led by Eskimo Mwasi, Alias Gilbert Ngwenya. They were killed when it became clear that security forces were hot on their trail.

Comrade Mugabe explained that the dissidents killed the tourists after a government helicopter searching for the six flew past the hut in which they had been huddled. The tourists had cried out for help, after which the dissidents killed them. He said with the assistance of the villagers the people buried the tourists in three shallow graves. The dissidents also forced the villagers to drive some cattle over the graves to obliterate any sign that might have exposed them to the security forces.

Comrade Mugabe said some of the villagers who participated in the bloody act have since been arrested. He said the leader of the dissidents, Eskimo Mwasi, was arrested for other murders and is due to hang. Sixteen of the team of 22 dissidents have either been arrested or killed in contact with security forces. Comrade Mugabe expressed deep condolence to the families and governments of the six tourists, saying it is a pity that they had to die for a cause which was not theirs.

HERALD Reacts to BBC 'Panorama' Program

MB071440 Harare the HERALD in English 1 Mar 85 p 8

[Editorial comment: "Time To Hit Back"]

[Text] The Western countries and the British imperialists in particular often hide their skilful manipulation of the mass media behind the claim that their media are free of government control.

Yet over the years nothing has served the interests of colonialism and imperialism more effectively than the media in Britain, particularly the BBC, which is known to be representative of the British establishment.

The Zimbabwe Government was this week obliged to lodge a protest to the British government through our High Commissioner in London against a television programme of alleged atrocities which the Government rightly feels is biased and inaccurate.

In one scene the programme showed what it said was a mass grave containing 50 people.

Our senior information attache in Britain, Cde Godfrey Chanetsa, said: "We feel it was exceptionally biased in favor of minority parties in Zimbabwe and the producer was not professional in his approach."

A distinguished British journalist noted that the programme was so edited as to amount to a distortion.

"My overall impression is that it was heavily slanted in favor of ZAPU," he said, adding that in the programme the Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, had given a "good account of himself but appeared resigned to the fact that whatever he said would not be accepted in the United Kingdom."

This is only natural after experiences such as the one in which the editor of *THE OBSERVER* preferred to peddle his own unsubstantiated version of the situation in Zimbabwe without referring to the truth in the interviews he had been granted by senior Government officials.

During the Panorama programme in question, observers have noted that Dr Joshua Nkomo was never asked to answer Government charges that with South African help ZAPU is training dissidents in camps in Botswana and that ex-ZIPRA elements were largely responsible for atrocities in Matabeleland.

But this is precisely the issue to which British journalism, reflecting sinister imperialist designs, has refused to address itself since Zimbabwe attained independence.

The fact that in one part of the country, bordering South Africa, a group of people have raised the flag of armed rebellion against a legitimately elected Government has not counted for much with political analysts in Britain.

What gets much publicity, on the contrary, are the declarations by Dr Nkomo, such as the announcement he made only recently and was proved to be false by scientists, that his car had been hit by gun bullets during his tour of Masvingo.

The only conclusion we can come to is that such journalism as was displayed in the weekend Panorama programme in Britain forms part of a campaign by some circles in British politics aimed at demoralising Zimbabwe's friends abroad.

Isn't it time we hit back in the small way we can, considering that Britain's new High Commissioner to Zimbabwe has not yet presented his credentials?

Perhaps to show our displeasure at the British media's propensities to indulge in antics that mar Zimbabwe's good name abroad, he could be left to cool his heels for a while at Stanley House.